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Muscogee Nation News

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April 2005, 24 Pages

Muscogee (Creek) Nation to construct activity center at Claude Cox Omniplex

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Creek Nation is planning to construct an activity center at the Claude Cox omnplex with construction to begin the first of July. The activity center will be a 100 ft. in diameter sprung building and will be equipped with a full-length basketball court, portable hitting cages and pitching machines. The building will also be functional for volleyball, boxing, soccer and other athletic activities.

The Creek Nation festival committee will manage the activity center until funding is available for a full time activity center staff. The activity center is the first phase of construction for up to date renovation of the Claude Cox omnplex.

Phase two of renovations will include permanent restrooms, a fully operational kitchen and a new multi-purpose center that will house two full length basketball courts an elevated walking track and aerobics room.

In the past and present time, there was and is a need for the multi-purpose building and activity center. These (buildings) will allow activities to continue during inclement weather, which force activities to be postponed, cancelled or moved to different locations during the festival.

This will also allow the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to utilize our property and generate revenue back into the tribe from outside sources.

Upon completion of the activity center and multi-purpose building, more activities will be planned weekly. The activities can also be utilized for communities, gospel singing, etc.

For more information, contact Lucas Taylor Creek Nation festival chairman at 918-732-7634 or (800) 482-1979 ext. 7634.

Principal Chief conducts first Inter-tribal meeting



Principal Chief A.D. Ellis presided over Inter-tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes for the first time on April 7 and 8 in Durant. He assumed the role of Chairman on January 14, 2005 and will hold the position for a term of one year.

Chief Ellis meets with Ceremonial Ground Mekkos

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief Ellis held the 2nd annual meeting of the Mekkos on April 2 in the Mound Auditorium. All Mekkos were greeted and welcomed by Second Chief Alfred L Berryhill, Elder Services Manager Jackson Barnett, Human Development Director Mike Flud and IHS Representative Bud McCombs.

Second Chief Berryhill reminded the group "this is your tribe, and assured them that services would be available if needed". The tribe is here as servants to the people. We tried to do as much as possible for the grounds.

The Nation was successful in purchasing more land for one of the grounds. The majority of the items considered and discussed were land issues, sanitation, land purchased and bathrooms built, and running water. If the grounds own land, we need to know. A few of the sixteen grounds do not want running water or modern facilities. Trash dump was a big problem, no waste company wants bring big containers or receptacles they were told they need concrete slab work, if needed we will go to National Council to get an appropriation. Last year we got a call from one of the grounds, they had an electrical outage, we now have power generators that were pur-

chased for use in cases of emergency.

We have been approached and it was brought up and requested, metal for the camps. A building in Kellyville has been planned to be demolished and the salvaged materials from this building will be available later this summer.

Creek Citizen and IHS (Indian Health Services) representative Bud McCombs addressed issues such as environmental. Their facilities are based here at the complex to support the services that the tribe offers. We are not regulatory or inspections, we have a force account crew that resolves work orders for individuals. McCombs was present to answer any questions they had regarding sanitary facilities and construction. We need to build an all access for the dumpsters at these sites.

All Mekkos had the opportunity to speak, voice their concerns and the issues to address. This administration respects the ceremonial grounds that have continued our language, tradition and culture of our people.

please see **MEETING...**, page 14

Citizen gives thanks for home repairs

Editor:

My mom and I approached the Oklahoma City Muscogee (Creek) Association to see if we could get help with home repairs. Our bathroom floor was in terrible condition.

The Social Services Department was able to get funding for materials, if we would get someone to do the labor. Well, my mom is disabled and I didn't know anything about home repairs. Nancy Nibbs announced to our community members our situation at one of the monthly meetings. By the end of the night, we had two volunteers, Jim Freeman and Allen Yargee and by the end of the week, we had a new, sturdy and beautiful bathroom floor.

Teresa Gouge of the Social Services Department, went out of her way to help as well. She was able to find another program called Rebuilding Together to provide other home repairs that the OCMA and Creek Nation could not.

We are so grateful for everything the OCMA has done for us. We are lucky to have community members that cared enough to make it a priority project. MVTO for everything!

Dawn Harjo, Oklahoma City

Rights to worship

Editor:

First of all, I offer this out of love and respect with a measure of understanding. The United States Constitution guarantees that its citizenry has the exclusive right to worship and to establish, within each congregation, mosque or temple, the explicit practice thereof. Each church and denomination is different and in most cases, autonomous. It is free to establish and charter a constitution and by-laws that serve to protect the identity and the integrity of the respective church body. Our church reserves the right guaranteed to us to adhere to its constitution in all matters of public openness and usage. Our church as well as others and even corporations have this as a matter of appropriateness in an effort to conduct ourselves in all manner of decency and order as it relates to the principles set forth by the Word of God. Its principles are not founded on public opinion, nor on social norms, but solely on the Holy Scriptures.

The Church as we believe is not a country club, nor is it a community center, nor a ceremonial ground, or a place to conduct political persuasion. The church proper is the body of believers that are joined by a common commitment, namely by placing our faith in the atoning work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is the privilege of the place of common fellowship.

Secondly, to provide a setting for biblical education and propagation of the Gospel. Thirdly, to serve as a staging point for the propagation of the Gospel. Fourthly, it is through the church where mission opportunities are engaged in to minister to the community in all appropriateness and ability, and lastly but not at all exhaustive is it freedom to express its worship to a Holy and Sovereign Lord.

The previous month's article author stated that you should "state your wishes and stand your ground". It is our hope, as well as that of other churches, that interested parties understand that we too have standards of conduct and worship, that are in keeping with our belief system, in this case, the Word of God. Out of love and respect, talk and let all your concerns be known by all involved, including the leadership of the church. There are some practices labeled "traditional", "ceremonial" or even "Christian" that may not be appropriate in each others "environment", for we are not all the same. These practices may and will vary by the respective church and its tolerances.

We also realize, along with the previous month's article, that there are a lot of decisions that must be made in a short amount of time. Mourning has set in, disbelief is common and making sure everything is ready is a difficult task for the family. With better communications and open understanding on both sides of all involved, even the whole family, situations like this need not to happen.

It is understood that the previous article is indicative of the family as a whole nor does it represent the traditional or ceremonial community as a whole, nor does this present article represent all churches and or denominational interests.

Respectfully submitted
Pastor Randy Colbert, Belvin Baptist Church, Okmulgee

Woman expresses appreciation

Editor:

I would like to express our feeling of comfort that the Native American Funeral Home in Bristow gave my family during our loss of our baby Alycia Anna Cruz 'Lese' Alvarez.

Rachel and Hully Griffin, (owners) and Dana West went beyond business during this most stressful time. They are a very small business, but they are *extremely large* from the heart. I feel it is very important at such a time to not be pressured by a funeral home or anyone else.

Native American Funeral Home took the time to listen to what we wanted, not what they wanted for us.

They accommodated not just our Muscogee Creek culture, beliefs and practices but also that of Lese's

Cherokee, Cheyenne-Arapaho and Hispanic cultures as well. Some (funeral homes) can claim to honor and understand our ways, but I feel that no one can understand us better than one of our own.

I believe the Griffins truly understand where we're coming from, one Este Cate to another.

Billie (Sulphur) Scott, Bristow



Members of the following two associations:

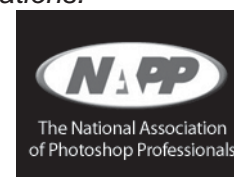


Native American Journalist Association

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Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

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Office of the Principal Chief...

by Chief A.D. Ellis

Hello to all friends and tribal citizens. This being the first week of spring is a great time of the year. As a life long farmer, I always have the urge to plant crops and vegetables. It is a joy to see a single seed sprout and grow into a beautiful tomato plant or water-melon. I know the Creek people were tillers of the soil for hundred's of years and many are still carrying on this form of culture. April second was our 2nd Annual Meeting of the Mekkoss it was a very good and informative meeting. This August will be the 2nd annual meeting with church leaders throughout our nation it is something to look forward to.

I have just received a copy of resolution number 05-12 from the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of Oklahoma.



This resolution simply implied that they refused to release or spend any Proceeds of sales money to help approximately twelve (12) very seriously needy Creek tribal citizens. Proceeds of Sales monies have few restrictions and can be used or released by the Board for low income housing, economic development, etc.. These are needs that have been overlooked for many years and are now emergency situations.

The amount of money in Proceeds of Sales budget is \$15,496,795.04. Fifteen and half million at the Board's disposal is a very imposing amount for use to assist our people. The Housing Board is comprised of Larry Cahwee, Chair, Christine McIntosh, Rhol Perryman, Jim Harjo and Charlie Frank. After terminating the old board I appointed these new members and they were subsequently, approved by our National Council. Each member promises to serve the needs of our people. Although, they are a state board, they are all Creek citizens.

I hope they will be decision makers and not let the attorneys make their decisions for them. The resolution also stated "the Board authorized and requests the ex-

penditure of NAHASDA funds. This board has neither the jurisdiction nor authority over these funds. NAHASDA funds are tribal funds.

I urge the National Council to investigate this and assist this office to expend a portion of these funds to provide much needed housing service to our Creek citizens. We have an enormous amount of Housing money that is not being spent. I have requested the expenditure of these funds to provide service to our people. I have requested we expend these funds instead of depriving our people of one to of their basic needs which is for shelter.

Next month, I promise to try and improve the Chiefs report to be more informative. The work load with the Gaming Compact which has just been approved by the Department of Interiors and the Tobacco Compact still working leaves little to no time to produce newspaper articles. To everyone, best wishes and good health. *Myto.*

Quote of the month: *"A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."*

NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY SERIES MUSCOGEE CONFEDERACY DRESS & APPEARANCE BEFORE EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

By
Patrick E. Moore

Muscogee Confederacy society prior to European invasions into North America was very rigidly structured. Habits of the Muscogee were regulated along moral and religious grounds concerning dress and personal appearance. The Muscogee Confederacy was loosely divided into the Upper Creeks, who resided in the vicinity of the Tallapoosa and Coosa rivers, and the Lower Creeks, who occupied lands in the vicinity of the current Alabama-Georgia state border.

Confederacy women wore calf length skirts that were tied with a thong at the waist. These shirts were made of either a single deerskin or several smaller animal skins pieced together. Women also made use of a textile woven from fibers of the Mulberry tree together with fibers of a particular tree moss found along the Georgia seacoast. They also wore moccasins that extended up to the calf of their leg. All young girls were required to wear a skirt and moccasins in public from the time they could walk.

Lower Creek women wore white mantles woven with thread obtained from several plants such as the Mulberry tree, Slippery Elm tree or a plant similar to the daffodil. On rare occasions the Lower Creek woman would wear a shawl or cloak of flamingo feathers.

Pre-Columbian Muscogee women did not cut their hair, it was braided and fastened into a topknot

secured by shell or bone hairpins. Most of the time their hair was treated with powder and juices made from the red sumac berry with bear grease added to give it a special luster.

The Muscogee female of good repute did not use body paint of any color.

These industrious women used numerous plant fibers to weave garters, belts, sashes, headbands and bags. They also incorporated geometric designs into their weaving, consisting of diamonds, W's and V's, coupled with imported porcupine quills from the far north, from south and central America, silver bells. The Muscogee woman dyed fabrics in her favorite colors, blue and red.

The Muscogee man wore a breech or loin cloth that hung down in both the front and back plus leggings made of leather. These leggings were often dyed black, laced with white leather thongs and trimmed with a fringe of colored leather. Muscogee boys wore no clothing until they reached puberty.

Muskrat cloaks and ankle length robes made of colorful feathers were reserved for Mekkoss, who also wore mantles made of colorfully painted deer skin, sable and wildcat fur. Men who had distinguished themselves in some form or fashion were allowed to wear a swan feather bonnet at festivals. Other headdresses consisted of bands decorated with beads that encircled the head adorned in front with the plumage of a crane, flamingo or heron. Some head bands were decorated using porcupine quills obtained in trade with northern Native Americans.

Turkey feather fans were used by the men when participating in ceremonies along with garters, sashes, belts and pouches. Some made use of shoulder

bags and bandoliers decorated with symbolic designs.

Most men wore their hair in the form of a roach on the front of their head with a braid down each side and a scalplock hanging behind, others preferred shaving of their head with a single braided hair lock down either the right or left temple.

The Confederacy warrior was tattooed extensively with flowers, stars, scrolls, animals, crescents, snakes, and sun designs which were reserved for the center of his chest. His body was often divided into several areas where only one type of design would appear. Facial tattooing was quite common and prevailed into the 1800's. A new tattoo would be added for each additional noteworthy exploit or conquest in battle in much the same manner as the modern day combat soldier receives a decoration or medal for bravery. The warrior alone could paint the head, neck and chest with vermilion sometimes outlined in black. The implements of war were also dipped and painted red along with the battle standard or calumet.

Men made extensive use of jewelry and favored ear rings of copper, he also wore a shell gorget and copper finger rings. Elaborate breastplates and round rawhide shields have been found at some archeological sites within the old Muscogee Confederacy's boundaries. These armaments were also a part of the warrior man's wardrobe.

The special Shaman or religious leader wore white buckskin, white moccasins decorated with red streaks, from his neck hung shell gorget and he carried a wreath of white swan feathers.

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the December 28, emergency session.

December 28, Emergency session

Absent were: **Sue Johnson**, Muskogee District; **Billy Chalakee**, Okmulgee District; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; and **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

discussion on tobacco compact;

no action was taken;

March 5, Regular session

Absent were: **Tom Pickering**, McIntosh District; **Sue Johnson**, Muskogee District; and **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (18-4-0) TR 05-025, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute a contract for the purchase of land in McIntosh County, Oklahoma for the purpose of constructing a senior and/or health facility;
- voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-027, authorizing the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Trade & Commerce authority to pursue the development of property located in Tulsa County, Oklahoma;
- approved (21-1-0) TR 05-028, approving the Native Nations Professional Engineers (NNPE) business plan of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Trade and Commerce authority;
- voting no was: **Gillespie**, Wagoner;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-035, amending the Muscogee (Creek) Nation procurement policies and procedures for the expenditure of HUD funding;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-036, confirming the nomination of **Robyn K. Culley** to serve on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health system board of directors;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-037, authorizing the Principal Chief to accept a deed for a tract of land in McIntosh County, Oklahoma for use by the Checotah Indian Community;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-039, changing the designated use of tribal property located in Creek County, Oklahoma;
- died on the floor (13-9-0) TR 05-042, authorizing the Principal Chief to include a statement within a tribal-state gaming compact between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the State of Oklahoma for Class III games the compact is signed under protest;
- voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Ade**, Tukvptce; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-047, amending the quality assurance representative agreement between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and **Jerry O. Lawson**;
- approved (16-6-0) TR 05-048, approving the vehicle lease

agreement for net or maintenance leases between transportation leasing company and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;

voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

- approved (22-0-0) TR 05-049, authorizing the Principal Chief to execute the amendments to the vehicle lease agreement #13300 dated November 10, 2000 between transportation leasing company and the Muscogee (Creek) Nation;
- approved (20-2-0) TR 05-050, approving the business plan of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Trade and Commerce Authority with the Alliance sign company;
- voting no were: **Chalakee**, Okmulgee and **Gillespie**, Wagoner;
- approved as amended (18-4-0) NCA 05-004, appropriating funds for the purchase of real property in McIntosh County, Oklahoma to be used to construct a senior and/or health facility;
- voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- due to a tie vote speaker votes yes;
- approved to return to committee (12-11-0) NCA 05-020, amending NCA 04-131 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation amending Title 16, Chapter four of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and amending and repealing certain laws to reorganize the existing structure of Lighthorse Police;
- voting no were: **Tiger**, Creek; **Barnett**, Creek; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Parish**, Muskogee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Quiett**, Tulsa; and **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- approved as amended (21-0-1) NCA 05-025, authorizing a special appropriation to a certain tribal Muscogee (Creek) citizen for medical travel expenses;
- abstain were: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- approved (22-0-0) NCA 05-027, amending NCA 04-153 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation approving the comprehensive annual budget for Fiscal Year 2005 and providing for appropriations;
- approved (22-0-0) NCA 05-028, authorizing a special appropriation to the Wetumka Indian Club and one sponsor for educational purposes;
- approved (19-3-0) NCA 05-029, amending NCA 04-055 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new housing code and codifying said law in Title 24, “Housing,” of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, repealing NCA 81-79, NCA 83-09, NCA 92-29, NCA 96-105, NCA 97-100, NCA 98-70 and NCA 98-131; and amending NCA 04-035 (“Executive Office Reorganization Act”) to authorize a limited waiver of sovereign immunity in construction contracts and the application of Oklahoma Law in said contracts;
- voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Berryhill**, Wagoner;
- approved (19-3-0) NCA 05-030, amending NCA 04-055 (a law of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation enacting a new housing code and codifying said law in Title 24, “Housing,” of the code of laws of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, repealing NCA 81-79, NCA 83-09, NCA 92-29, NCA 96-105, NCA 97-100, NCA 98-70 and NCA 98-131; and amending NCA 04-035 (“Executive Office Reorganization Act”), to authorize the Principal Chief and any designated person(s) to execute certain contracts on behalf of the division of housing;
- voting no were: **Fields**, Tukvptce; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and

Berryhill, Wagoner;

- approved (21-1-0) NCA 05-032, authorizing an appropriation to the Hanna Indian Community Center for repairs and operating costs;
- voting no was: **Cleghorn**, Tulsa;
- approved as amended (15-7-0) NCA 05-034, authorizing a special appropriation to the Salem Ryal elderly nutrition program;
- voting no were: **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Golden**, Okfuskee; **Jones**, Okmulgee; **Chalakee**, Okmulgee; **Williams**, Okmulgee; **Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Hufft**, Tulsa;
- approved (21-1-0) NCA 05-035, authorizing a special appropriation for a creek family for financial assistance to accompany their eight (8) year old son to compete in a world wrestling event;
- voting no was: **Fields**, Tukvptce;
- approved (18-1-3) NCA 05-036, authorizing a special appropriation for a creek citizen who needs assistance due to loss of income for an extended period of time;
- voting no was: **McIntosh**, McIntosh;
- abstain were: **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Notaro**, McIntosh; and **Fields**, Tukvptce;
- Parish** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;
- approved (20-1-0) NCA 05-037, authorizing a special appropriation to the Muscogee (Creek) language program at the University of Oklahoma;
- voting no was: **Pickering**, McIntosh;
- Parish** was out of seat at time of casting of vote;
- approved (21-0-0) NCA 05-039, authorizing a special appropriation for the Spring Celebration sponsored by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation partnership board;
- approved (15-6-1) NCA 05-044, appropriating funds for the erection of a sprung building to be located at the tribal complex;
- voting no were: **Harjo**, Creek; **Notaro**, McIntosh; **McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Wind**, Okfuskee; **Fields**, Tukvptce; and **Quiett**, Tulsa;
- abstain was: **K. Johnson**, Okmulgee;
- approved (21-1-0) NCA 05-045, authorizing a special appropriation for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation 4-H program;
- voting no was: **Jones**, Okmulgee.

March 15, Emergency session

Absent were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek District; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh District; **Sandra Golden**, Okfuskee District; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee District; **Shirlene Ade**, Tukvptce District; **Lola Fields**, Tukvptce District; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa District; and **Cherrah Quiett**, Tulsa District;

Speaker **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce District, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In order of business the Council:

- approved (16-0-0) NCA 05-070, authorizing a special appropriation to the election board to conduct a special election on April 16, 2005.

Correction

In the March 2005 issue there was error on January 29, 2005 minutes. It should have read that Tom Pickering was present during this session.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

Second Annual Community Conference Announced

TULSA — The Community Conference 2005 will kick off on Friday, April 22 with round tables of Bureaucracy discussion with Tulsa area elected and appointed officials. The two-day conference will focus on an exchange of ideas and communication between Tulsa's residential business, youth and civic communities. The event will be held at Christview Christian Church 2525 S. Garnett Road, on April 22 & 23 and is open to the public across the state.

Friday evening table topics will feature Dr. David Sawyer, Superintendent Tulsa Public Schools, and members of Tulsa Public School board, continuing education, Tulsa County Commissioners, Tulsa City Councilors, Tulsa's Mayor Bill LaFortune and people from the administrative team, the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Mayor's Action Center, various boards commission and authority members, Vision 2025 and others. Registration will begin at 5:30 until 6 p.m., with opening remarks beginning at 6 p.m. Discussion sessions will ensue at 6:25 p.m. with rotation every 25 minutes thereafter, to alternate topic areas. Open forum style question and answer session will enable participants to ask questions one on one of the facilitators.

The Saturday session will be over 30 working sessions of the conference. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will focus on topic-specific hour and a half sessions ranging from Tulsa animal shelter, development in urban areas, investing, neighborhood resources, legal issues and responsibilities, runaways, chairing a committee, crime prevention, listening to your pet, preservation, first time home buyers, hospice, early settlement, zoning, home based business with Professor Glenn Muske of OSU, PSO and the tree trimming program, legal aid service in Oklahoma, and many more. A special feature will be two presentations by Michael Wallis, Route 66 author and Dewberry Engineering on Route 66...it's past, present and future and how it relates to us. Luncheon speaker will be Jim Cremin. Mr. Cremin has been delivering seminars for over 30 years to many of the major corporations. Various sports venues have used Mr. Cremin's services to help change from negative thinking to positive progress. Mr. Cremin not only has a great message, but an entertaining and wholesome delivery.

This year's conference is dedicated to the memory of Nancy Apgar, long time Tulsa Neighborhood volunteer and mentor to many existing neighborhood associations today. Participants may register on-line at www.tulsaseat.com, fax a request at (918) 438-4747 or leave a message at (918) 439-1432.

Bristow appreciates support of community

BRISTOW — The Bristow Indian Community "Creek Travelers" held a Men's Basketball Tournament on February 26. The tournament consisted of the following teams: Superfreak; Ray's Gang; Natives; Tribe; Depew; Este Cate; Ambush & Native Pride.

The winners are as follows: champions, Ambush; second place, Depew and third place, Tribe.

The second place team players were Andy, Joe, Jesse, Josh Cooper and Wesley.

The third place winners were David 'Joe' West, Darrell Coon, Eric Weiss, Norman 'Bungie' Taryole, Dale Price, Brandon and Dereck West.

The Bristow Indian Community 'Creek Travelers' organization would also like to thank

the eight teams who participated and the Bristow School Administration for the use of the gym, the people who came to watch the games and to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department for getting the information out to the people.

For any further information, contact the Bristow Indian Community: smokeshop & fax, (918) 367-9448; bingo, (918) 367-9168; nutrition, (918) 367-2249.

The mailing address is 710 S. Main and the community center is located at 1221 W. Lincoln.

Bristow Indian Community holds their meetings on the third Tuesdays at 7 p.m. The directions to the community center are: go south on main street to last stoplight, turn right and go 1/2 block to yellow building on right.



Ambush Team pictured left to right: Kwiana, Hochini, John Billy, Chris Holuby, Doug Hill and Ali. Other players not pictured: Eric Thilocco, Vincent Coon, Brigham Burk and John Stokes.

Fees for the conference are Friday, dessert and discussions, \$20 per person. The fee for Saturday's breakfast by Panera Bread, all workshops, lunch, luncheon speaker and door prize drawings will be \$30 per person. A 10% discount for Saturday may be obtained by bringing donations of baby items for donation to a section of the Eastern Oklahoma Food Bank. Diapers and nonperishable baby foods are most needed.

For more information a message phone may be reached at (918) 439-1432. A representative of South & East Alliance of Tulsa will return your call.

Economic Development Summit planned

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Cherokee Nation will present an Economic Development Summit on April 30 at the Green Country Technology Center. The summit will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The purpose of this summit is to stimulate the economic growth of our tribal communities. A network of representatives and sponsors will present their perspectives in planning, finance and development in rural and city areas, in efforts to accomplish a higher standard of economic development for our tribal communities.

The guest speaker will be State Representative Lisa Billy. For more information contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community Services office at (918) 732-7965.

Sworn to Service

OKMULGEE — The Community Research and Development will provide technical assistance and seek resources for the twenty-three active chartered Indian Communities. Also, encourage and promote self sufficiency in the areas of economic development and self-determination.

The department will respond to requests for assistance on technical matters in regard to the development and/or revisions of community constitutions and by-laws. These duties are in addition to planning, researching, developing and facilitating in other areas of the community realm (Community Development Block Grant proposals, Facility Use Agreements, Sub-let Agreements, and Contracts/Agreements with third parties).

For more information, contact the Community Research and Development office at (918) 732-7962 or 1-800-482-1979 extension 7962.

Tell Us About Your Events

Please keep us informed of your community activities and events so that we may help you get the word out.

Contact us at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department at P.O. Box 580/Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447 or by phone at (918) 732-7637. Feel free to fax us as well by using our fax number at (918) 758-0824.

Scholarships awarded to Native American athletes

DEWAR — The 2nd March Madness All Indian Tournament recently presented their scholarships to the tournament participants at the awards banquet on March 27. The awards were proudly presented to the Native American athletes in amounts totaling over \$73,000 in scholarships.

Dr. Robert Duncan, Jr., President and Jerrett Phillips, Director of Admissions and Enrollment of Bacone College presented their two four year scholarships to Creek citizens, Brian Culley of Mason and Melissa Mack of Butner.

Haskell Indian Nations University Board of Regents member

George Tiger, presented two \$500 scholarship awards to David "Blade" Goodman and Keisha Billy, both of Dustin.

National Council Representatives Roger Barnett (Creek district) and Rita Williams (Okmulgee district) pre-

sented their two \$1000 scholarships to Leona Hicks of Butner and David Rutledge-Parker of Bokoshe.

For Love of the Game representative, Victor Bear presented two \$500 scholarships to Mark Gaches of Schuler and Katie Bo Coon of Okemah.

Over two-hundred athletes participated in the tournament. There were teams from as far away as Livingston, Texas and San Carlos, Arizona.

For the Love of the Game Representatives, David Pascal, B.J. Waggnor and Victor Bear stated "they are already planning for March Madness 2006 to be better and in a bigger facility at Henryetta High School Gym-

nasium." Coordinator Lucas Taylor said, "the organization's goal is to one day reach scholarships in the amount of \$100,000 or greater. We would like to attract more attention from more colleges and universities nationwide."



2005 scholarship winners at the 2nd Annual March Madness Tournament.

Childers Memorial Scholarship

COWETA — For nearly three decades, the late Kenneth Childers worked with students and faculty at Coweta Public Schools as Director of Indian Education.

Childers' death on February 4, 2005 took him away from a community he loved. And now, the community is reaching out in order to keep his memory alive.

In mid-February the Ken Childers Memorial Scholarship was established by the Childers family. On February 25, the faculty and staff of Central elementary made the first contribution to the scholarship fund.

Central Elementary Principal Dr. Nanette Lane said 28 percent of the student population at her building is Native American. Childers worked closely with these youngsters and other students for years, presenting special programming and offering support in all areas. Those working at Central took up a personal collection to get the scholarship fund rolling.

Kenneth Childers, Jr. said, "The memorial scholarship will be awarded to a graduating Coweta senior who plans to pursue vocational or other higher education after graduation." Applications are open to all students regardless of race.

Childers said consideration will be given to leadership capabilities and community and school involvement. A grade point average of 2.0 is required, and consideration will also be given to hardship situations.

Person wishing to make a donation to the memorial scholarship fund may do so at the First National Bank of Coweta. To learn more, call Childers at (918) 486-7872.

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James Adelman, (Muscogee Creek)

Packages are tailored to available tribal assistance burial programs and maybe at no cost to the family

Admiral @ N. Trenton
Tulsa, OK 74120
918.599.7799
866.599.0916
(24 Hours)

Births

Matthias Scott Contu

OKMULGEE—Matthias Scott Contu was born on December 29, 2004 to Mersessa Contu and Chester Bear.

He weighed seven pounds and 14 ounces and 19 and one half inches long.

Maternal Grandparents are Wyquita and Frank Bear. Paternal grandmother is Sandra Bear and great-grandparents are Gretchen and Eddie Lindsey.

Matthias has one brother, Elijah Berryhill.



Contu

Emily Yonayv Fixico

NORMAN — Emily Yonayv Fixico was born on November 17, 2004 at Norman Regional Hospital to Stephanie Berryhill and Johnny Fixico of Norman.

She weighed 9 lbs. and 10 ounces and was 20 and one half inches in length.

Fixico is Ecovlke and is the daughter of Nokosvlke. She is the granddaughter of Hvlpvtvlke and Aktvyahcvlke. Fixico belongs to Ocevpopfv and is the daughter of Apehkv. She is the granddaughter of Kvsehtv and Vcenv Hvcce Tvlse.

Her maternal grandparents are Jo Ann Skaggs of Okmulgee and Michael and Julia Berryhill of Henryetta. Her paternal grandparents are the late Robert and Mamie Fixico, Holdenville.

Fixico's great grandparents are the late Drennon and May Bell Hawkins Skaggs, the late Tom and Blanch Pakoska Berryhill, the late Tom and Lily King Thompson and the late Wadie and Fannie Factor Fixico.

She has three siblings, Jennifer, age 28, and Jason Fixico, age 27, both of Moore and Eco Barnett, five of the home.



Fixico

Birthday

Gonseth celebrated birthday with family

OKMULGEE — Luke Adam Gonseth celebrated his second birthday with family and friends at home with a Spider man theme on January 20. He is the son of Eric and Beth Gonseth of Preston.

His Grandparents are Sherryl and Clarence Gonseth of Okemah and Betsy Griffin of Preston. Luke has three sis-



Gonseth

ters, Bre'Onna Gonseth, Danielle and Kristen Waller.

Harjo sisters celebrated birthdays

PAWNEE—Destiny Gale celebrated her eighth birthday on February 26 and Alexandria Louise celebrated her 12th birthday on January 24 with family and friends.

Destiny and Alex are the daughter's of Theron and Stacy Harjo of Pawnee.

Paternal grandparents are Sandy Chino Sr. of Acomita, New Mexico and the late Diana Chino of Acomita, New Mexico.

Maternal great grandparents are the late Henry Sr. and Judy (Wesley) Harjo of Wetumka and the late Philip and Louise Mathews of Pawnee.



D. and A. Harjo

Dylan celebrates 7th Birthday

BEGGS — Dylan DeWayne Melton celebrated his 7th birthday on March 17 at Mazzio's Pizza with a sports theme.

Melton loves to play sports. He is starting to play coach pitch with the Beggs little league.

He is the son of Christopher Melton and Lanissa Jack Melton of Beggs.

His maternal grandparent is Lee Ann Jack of Dustin. Paternal grandparents are Steve and Theresa Melton of Henryetta. Great maternal grandparents are Lournia Pigeon Jack and the late Mitchell Jack of Dustin. Great paternal grandparents are Charles and Dores Melton.



Melton

Postoak celebrates with family and friends

TULSA — Brigitte Elizabeth Postoak turned 19 on April 5th with family and friends.

She is the daughter of the late Amos T. Postoak and Marion Graves.

Maternal grandparents are the late Karl-Heinz and Brigitte Zwanzig of Berlin, Germany. Paternal grandparents are the late Eli and Lizzie Postoak of Sasakwa.

Brigitte has nine older brothers and sisters and one younger sister.

Society

Beaver wins first place

TAHLEQUAH — Anthony Beaver, age 14, is in the ninth grade at Sequoyah High School.

Anthony won first place



Postoak

at Hilldale Jr. High power lifting meet of 123 pounds rating. Beaver is the first freshman in his class to place first in powerlifting. His coach is Brent Scott.

Anthony is the son of Rick and Lisa Powell and sisters, B.T., Terra and Shelby.

His grandparents are Lu Joshua and the late Lee Joshua Sr.

International Honor Society Inducts Yahola

SEMINOLE—Timothy Eric Yahola was inducted into the Honor Society March 21. The ceremonies were held at Jeff Johnston Auditorium at the Seminole Jr. College.

The Phe Theta Kappa honor society recognizes students with grade average of 3.5 or higher.

Yahola's parents are Howard and Delilah Stouffer of Wetumka and Timothy Yahola of Stratford. His maternal grandparents are Salina Yargee and the late William Yargee of Wetumka. Paternal grandparents are Martha Yahola of Wewoka and Roman Yahola of Holdenville.



Beaver

Announcements

Tainpeah and Coachman wed

OKEMAH — Cynthia Ann Coachman and Ray Tainpeah were united in marriage at on April 2 at Arbeka United Methodist Church in Okemah.

The Rev. Lester Tims, Northern District Superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, officiated the ceremony. A reception followed at the church's Fellowship Hall.

The bride was given in marriage by her son, Arharlock T. Buckley. Miss Rebecca L. Coachman was Maid of Honor. The son of the groom, Ji Tainpeah served as the Best Man with Groomsmen, Shawn West. Tysie Harjo and Talia Buckley. The flower girls were escorted by A.J. Buckley and Ethan Underwood. Rev. Carol Walker sang a wedding song followed by a marriage prayer.

Cynthia is the Program Manager for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program and Ray is the Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee.

After a honeymoon in Alaska, Cynthia and Ray Tainpeah will reside at their home in Prague.



Tainpeahs

US Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Program

By Yolane Hartsfield, Deputy for Small Business Tulsa District

TULSA — U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has demonstrated an opportunity for small businesses to work within the Department of Defense facilities located in this region of the United States. Tulsa District has strong civil and military construction programs, including environmental work, ongoing in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, and Louisiana. We have a workforce committed to finding meaningful work for small businesses.

Tulsa District routinely place work with small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, Native American owned businesses, women-owned businesses, 8 (a) businesses, HUBzone businesses, veteran owned businesses, and service disabled veteran owned small businesses. Tulsa District had an excellent 2004 supporting the Small Business program. From a total contracting effort of \$274.5 million, we awarded \$42,960,440 to 8 (a) firms, 15.65% of our dollars. We awarded \$36,750,441 to HUBzone firms, 13.39% of our dollars. We awarded \$118,455,912 to small business firms, 43.15% of our dollars. We awarded 79,360,728 to small disadvantaged firms, or 28.91% of our dollars. We awarded \$2,937,314 to service disabled veteran owned small businesses, 1.07% of our dollars. We awarded \$14,858,417 to women owned small business, 5.41% of our dollars. We awarded 98.43% of our education dollars to Historically Black

Colleges and Universities (HBCU/MIs) far exceeding our goal of 18.2%.

With 39 recognized tribal governments in Oklahoma, our contracting with tribally owned and individually owned Native American small businesses provides a clear example to others who are looking to economically develop in clearly positive and profitable areas. Tulsa District, and its Small Business Office, continuously seek out Native American owned small businesses to inform them about contracting opportunities within the Tulsa District; share information about SBA programs that the Native American firms can use to their benefit; and, inform and arm them with relevant information about the DOD's Indian Incentive Award's Program—a unique program providing opportunity for Native American owned small businesses in the sub-contracting arena.

In July 2004 Tulsa District awarded a \$15M Basic Ordering Agreement for Design/Build services to a Tribal Indian Owned 8(a) firm. This unique tool allows smaller design/build projects to be executed on a design/build basis in a timely manner and help the District reach our small business goals.

In September 2004, Tulsa District awarded a unique contract for lock and dam operator services.

please see **BUSINESS...**, page 16

Trade & Commerce Authority employee turning dreams into reality

OKMULGEE — Carmen Johnson, Project Manager for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade & Commerce Authority has recently received her certificate of completion for the program in mastering project management. The award was administered through Villanova University.

While completing the program is an accomplishment in itself, Johnson is also turning her dreams into reality to continue her education by seeking her Bachelor's of Science in Business Management through the University of Phoenix.

Johnson has been with the Trade & Commerce Authority for 2 years. "When I first started, we only had 2 people and now there are at least 10 that work within the office but more importantly and impressive is the fact that we now have eight additional entities that have been created under Trade & Commerce. The eight entities not only include all Creek Nation Travel Plazas but also include Document and Imaging, Farm Authority and the three newest businesses: Alliance Sign Company, Native Nations Professional Engineer (NNPE) and the Muscogee Nation Screening and Supply Services (MNSSS)."

"I started from the bottom and have worked my

way up. When I first came, I was only looking for a part-time job and have managed to work my way up the ladder putting in the time to start from Secretary I to Sr. Office Coordinator to Office Manager and finally Project Manager.

When I decided to continue my education I wasn't quite sure I'd have the time but I credit my success to the support of my family. I have two children, Jonathan and Vanessa and a very understanding and supportive husband, Omar. With their help and love, I have been able to accomplish so much."

When asked about the turning point for the Trade & Commerce Authority and the direction of economic development and growth, Johnson gave recognition to Director Daniel Wesley and the support staff of the Trade & Commerce Authority office. "To go from an office with 2 desks

and an empty file cabinet to eight businesses is a pre-eminent feat by anyone's standards."

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade & Commerce Authority does not seem to have problems acquiring possible clients interested in obtaining their services. "We don't have to sell who we are or what we do, they just come to us" stated Johnson.



Johnson

Innovative venture launched at the Trade & Commerce Authority

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Trade & Commerce Authority is doing it again. They have created yet another business and hope to continue to add to the prosperity and economic development of the Creek people.

The new company, Muscogee Nation Screening and Supply Services, otherwise known as MNSSS. MNSSS is a background checking, drug screening and testing establishment. No longer are the days of traveling to Tulsa or other cities to take a drug test to begin employment. The business which is 100% Indian owned is headquartered at the Trade & Commerce Authority building.

The purpose is to not only to serve the people with quicker results but more importantly, be screened here and maintain and generate the money back into the tribe. The tribe previously sent out the prospective employee to a private industry for testing.

Alexis Crosley, Manager, stated MNSSS will abide by the same policies as the tribe and while it will create three to four new positions, there was no funding requested in order to set things in motion. "Once we acquire a constant and reliable clientele list, it (MNSSS) will pay for itself."

Crosley stated that the background checks done will be just the same as other private sectors, if not stricter. Not only will all checks go through the local Police Department but they will also go through the Department of Corrections, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Oklahoma State Court Network and Records also the State of Oklahoma County Listings and will one day be ran through the FBI systems as well as all tribal district courts.

The drug screening and testing division of the company will utilize the EZ Split method and will have the capabilities to screen over 10 different families of illegal substances. Results will be available within a 30 minute time period.

All drug testing will be administered under the direction of the possible employer. Once hired, the company may implement random drug testing at their discretion. Should an employer execute their right to set up such testing, an employees can be terminated for refusing to take the test.

"All drug and alcohol test results and related materials are considered confidential records and must be stored separately from other personnel records. Such records must be made available to an applicant or employee upon request for inspection or copying. Records may not be released by the employer to any individual other than the applicant, employee or employer's review officer without the expressly granted permission of the employee."

The staff will be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information, please contact the MNSSS at (918) 732-7764.

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Grasslands Reserve Program Evaluated

OKMULGEE — The Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) assists private landowners in protecting, conserving and restoring grassland resources through short and long term rental agreements and easements. The voluntary program helps protect valuable grasslands from conversion to other land uses. Rental agreements of 10, 15, 20, or 30 years compensate producers with a yearly rental rate to maintain the land according to a grazing plan. Permanent and 30-year easement enrollment options compensate producers based on the fair market value of the land minus the grassland value for maintaining the land according to a grazing plan. Continued use of the land by grazing or haying is allowed.

Oklahoma has received \$2.065 million for this year's GRP. The 2005 GRP will emphasize selection of offered easement acres. Applications for the Grasslands Reserve Program are accepted on a continuous basis with a yearly announced application evaluation dates. Applications for GRP can be made at the Farm Service Agency or Natural Resource Conservation Services Officers, 719 East Eighth Street.

All GRP applications received by April 18, 2005 will be considered for the 2005 funding. Applications received after this date will be considered for the 2006 GRP funding.

Oklahoma Indian Legal Services Available.

OKMULGEE — The Realty Department would like to advertise the upcoming meeting with Oklahoma Indian Legal Services. Oklahoma Indian Legal Services will be at the complex on April 21 starting at 10 a.m.

Anyone wanting to meet with a representative can call 732-7713 and schedule an appointment.

Gold Dome Multi-cultural Society

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Gold Dome Multi-cultural Society announced today that it is accepting submissions for its "Invitation to Awareness" mural contest. The winning work will be announced in a ceremony on May 14 and will become a permanent fixture in the organization's space within the historic Gold Dome building, located at 1112 NW 23rd Street.

Emerging and established artists are invited to submit original works, with a Multi-cultural theme, for consideration to the Gold Dome Multi-cultural Society by May 1.

All interested artists should e-mail David Smith at golddomemcs@sbcglobal.net for a mural contest application form. Submissions can be brought to the mural drop box near the Gold Dome 23rd Street entrance or sent electronically in a PDF format to golddomemcs@sbcglobal.net.

Artwork delivered in person needs to be in an envelope and should not exceed 12" by 18" in size. All submissions must include the application form in order to be considered for judging.

In addition to the permanent mural, the Gold Dome Multi-cultural Society will also feature a gallery for art-

ists whose works will include cultural themes. The inaugural exhibit will consist of select mural contest submissions.

For official mural contest rules and information about the Gold Dome Multi-cultural Society, please contact David Smith at golddomemcs@sbcglobal.net.

Sequoyah Alumni Foundation

TAHLEQUAH — The Sequoyah Alumni Foundation's 60th Annual Reunion will be from May 6 through 8.

There will be a silent auction in the Cherokee Nation Ballroom located behind the "Restaurant of the Cherokees" on May 6. The social begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m., which also ends the auction. The public is invited and admission is free.

Haskell's 2005 Alumni of the Year

LAWRENCE, K.S. — Each year the National Haskell Alumni Association honor alumni for outstanding contributions to Haskell, their Indian community and to Alumni activities.

This year the honor goes to Dempsey Micco and Barney Old Crow. Dempsey is Seminole/Creek from Weleetka and Barney is Crow from Montana.

The Honor Dinner will be May 13 at the Holidome in Lawrence, Kansas at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person; make checks payable to NHAA and mail to Louis Taylor, Treasurer, P.O. Box 1534, Claremore, OK 74018 before May 1, call (505) 831-6522 or e-mail LJT50@aol.com.

Haskell Commencement Indian Men's Fast Pitch

LAWRENCE, K.S. — The 11th Annual Haskell Commencement Indian Men's Fast-Pitch will be held May 14-15 at Clinton Lake Sports Complex. The entry fee is \$180 and payable by money order only. The deadline is May 9 to enter.

The awards (which may be subject to change) are: \$700 and Pullovers for the Champions, \$500 and T-shirts for the runners up, \$300 and T-shirts for third, T-shirts for the All-Tournament team, and a pendleton jacket for MVP.

For more information, e-mail or call: Angela Barnett, abarnett@haskell.edu or 785-749-8402; Kerry Girty, kgirty@haskell.edu or 785-832-6600; or Robert Berryhill Jr., robertberryhill@hotmail.com or 785-841-1292.

Live-Fire Demonstration for Veterans

FORT SILL — A Live-fire demonstration will be performed on May 5. There are 60 seats available but only 20 seats remaining. It is for Muscogee veterans only, the bus leaves the tribal complex at 0700.

The bus will stop to pick up Muscogee veterans at Okemah at 0800 and leave at exactly 0830. Please bring a copy of DD 214 for in-processing at Fort Sill. The bus will return to the Mound parking lot at approximately 2200.

For more information contact Ken Davis at (918) 732-7739.

Jacobson House Native Art Center

NORMAN — The Jacobson House Native Art Center is putting out a call for artists and exhibitors for their 2005 Outdoor Indian Market taking place May 7 - 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information please contact John Parish at 405-366-1667.

Louisa Canard/Alex Scott Family Reunion

OKMULGEE — The Louisa Canard/Alex Scott family reunion will be held at Dripping Springs Park on May 21 starting at 10 a.m. Descendants of Louisa Canard or Alex Scott are invited to attend.

Anyone attending is asked to bring a potluck dish. There will be lots of fun for everyone. For more information you may contact Geneva Haynes at (918) 759-8973.

Haskell Alumni Association Accepting Members

LAWRENCE, K.S. — The Haskell Alumni Association is accepting members. They need to know your name, address, telephone number, the dates you were enrolled and the name you used while there. A membership fee of \$10.00 covers from November 1, 2004 to October 31, 2005.

Please send the information and payment to Lou Lasley, 9700 Sheperd's Drive, Kansas City, MO 64131.

Eufaula Child Development Center

EUFAULA — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Eufaula Child Development Center would like to announce that they are beginning the summer fun a bit early, starting it off in April.

The first week of April is the "Week of the Young Child" with various activities. The second week of April is "Reading is fun week" during which they visited the Eufaula Public Library. The third week is "National Gardening Week" during which they learned how to plant and take care of a flower garden. The fourth week is "National Volunteer Week" during which they will have various volunteers come and tell about their jobs and play with the children. Also during volunteer week they plan to entertain the residents of the local nursing homes with songs and a short puppet program.

However, even fun and games have a purpose and the children are taught through play and hands on experiences. They visit local parks and recreation areas when weather permits to watch the local wildlife and see all the different plants and flowers. There also have weekly lesson plans with an array of activities including math, art, science, reading, music, and group time.

The teaching staff is well trained in the field of Child Care, with a combined total of 30 years in the field. At this time there are 3 staff members attending Eastern Oklahoma State College pursuing an Associates of Science degree in Early Childhood Development.

For any questions or comments please call Shannon Grissom, Center Supervisor, at 918-618-4019.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Classifieds

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Classifieds is a free service provided for Creek Citizens. To place a classified advertisement in the Muscogee Nation News please contact the Communications Department Classified Section at 918-732-7643 or email the advertisement content to Cbrown@muscogeenation-nsn.gov. Advertisement space is limited and ads will be placed as they are received according to space.

Appliances

GE 8 cycle washer, almond color, good condition works fine \$100. Call 918-756-4349.

Automobiles

1997 White Ford Escort Wagon, great gas mileage, very clean excellent condition. Previously used as a sales fleet vehicle. \$2500 firm. Call 918-906-8509.

1997 Silver Buick LeSabre \$3500. Very Clean, runs good. Call 918-827-5272.

1995 White Ford E250 Cargo Van \$4500. Call 906-8509.

1996 White Chevy Astro Van, runs and body is in fair shape needs a cylindoid. \$900. Call 918-798-1643.

1961 Ford Uni-body F100 223 6 cylinder \$1500. Call (918) 759-0043.

2005 Chevrolet Trailblazer LS Gold with black 2 wheel drive, 6 cylinder, Automatic, 4 doors, Onstar Center Air bags, 6000 miles, power windows and doors, will make April & May payment, equipped with luggage rack. Call William at 733-1270.

95 Chrysler New Yorker 4 door, runs good needs minimal body repair. Call 918-756-3396.

Blue 94 Geo Tracker, removable hard top, runs good. Call 918-756-3396.

1983 Three quarter ton Chevy 454, runs on gas or propane. \$2695. Call 918-756-4349 after 5pm.

94 El Camino 305, extremely great condition low miles. \$4395. Call 918-756-4349.

Clothing

Preteen boys clothes, large sizes good condition. Leather Jackets \$35 each. Call 918-304-9729.

Prom Dresses – all dresses are size 12. \$50. Contact at 918-304-9729.

Black long length leather women's coat, size 1x. \$50. Call 918-304-9729.

Prom Dress Turquoise – size 7. Contact Sherri Riley 918-732-7943 (Price Negotiable).

Cosmetic and Health Care

Check out the new summer items and cosmetic line from Avon. Contact Angela Fields Avon Independent Sales Representative at 918-284-3140.

Mary Kay cosmetic products available contact Marsha Lowe at 918-652-1681.

Melaluca Products All Natural based products that promote wellness and vitality for more information contact Kimberly Reinking at 918-652-3169.

Farm & Garden

Looking for new or good condition used bee boxes. Contact 918-473-7758.

2 New (never used) saddle racks in the shape of cowboys. \$150 each. Call 918-733-2467.

42 inch Craftsmen mower deck (like new) with new, never used blades. \$250 or OBO. Call 319-0654.

Furniture

Black leather couch good condition \$50. Call 918-304-9729.

Rocker Glider hunter green sturdy wood frame material in good condition \$30. Call 918-759-0043.

Solid wood bunk beds with detachable ladder. Frame is in really great shape, like new only used for 1 year. \$100. Call 918-756-5025.

King size water bed/heater works fine and mattress is one year old. \$25. Call 652-3147.

King size waterbed with headboard shelf and mirrors underbed drawers complete with heater and mattress in good condition. \$450 or best offer. Call 918-733-2467.

BenchCraft Sofa and Loveseat for sale for \$650. Color: Tan, Material: Micro-Suede, 1.5 years old, only used for 9 months. Easy clean-up. Call 918-756-5091.

Garage Sales & Fundraisers

Moving sale in Preston at 10251 South Polk Street. Rain or Shine under carport. Furniture, toys, clothes, equipment, appliances and more. April 23, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Okmulgee Indian Community Flea Market, May 7. Food Sale– 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call Esther Gee (918)759-8553.

Block Garage Sale 1821 E. 9th Street Okmulgee, May 7th from 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Fundraiser for Native Praise Trip to England.

OIC Food Bingo across from Creek Complex, Loop 56 Okmulgee, May 14. Call (918)759-8553.

Big sale, clothing, shoes, toys, household goods, misc. on April 23 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Two miles east of Morris Highway.

Land for Lease

80 or more acres of land to lease for hunting purposes or would consider purchasing. Contact Scott at 918-650-3907 or 918-652-3147.

Pets & Livestock

Full blood Rottweiler pups \$50 each. Parents on premises. 918-304-9729.

Chocolate Labrador female 2 1/2 years old very affectionate and obedient pet. AKC Registered and proven breeder. Call 918-906-8509.

Female Rat Terrier 2 1/2 years old red and white, very well behaved and loving has had some indoor training. \$50. Call 918-798-0643.

ACHC Registered Labradoodle (Poodle/Lab mix) pups chocolate and black pups available. Hypo-allergenic, minimal to no shedding, great for hunting and water sports, very intelligent breed. \$500 each. Call 918-756-5427.

Female blue heeler 12 weeks old. \$50. Call 918-652-9266.

Canaries various colors \$30 and up. Call 918-319-0654.

Looking for male or female Chihuahua pups, 6 months to a year old. Call 918-798-0643.

8 white rabbits. \$5 each. Call 918-652-3541.

Misc.

Spring cleaning, brush, mowing, hauling misc. yard work in Okmulgee and surrounding area. Contact J. Polk and leave message at 918-756-3571.

Wanted old magic cards and war hammer 40k figures 918-759-0810.

Four motorcycle helmets (three open face and one full face). Sale as a group or individually. Price negotiable. Call 918-759-0043.

1996 Sea-doo 115 Hp, looks and runs like new. New trim motor, has cover and trailer. \$3500. Call 918-759-0043.

1991 Hi-Lo 22' Camper Travel Trailer. \$4000. Call 918-759-0043.

4 cash registers. \$150 each. Call 918-733-2467.

18 golf clubs with bag. \$30. Call 918-756-2899.

Eureka Boss vacuum cleaner. \$20. Call 918-650-0628.

36 foot trailer, half car hauler/half enclosed. \$2800. Call 918-756-2032.

10 -11 landscape timbers (treated). \$2 each, 25 to 30 railroad ties \$4 each. Call 918-652-7693.

40 channel CB for car with adapter for home call 758-4177.

Humidifier in good shape call 918-758-4177.

Native American Recipes

Blue Bread or Blue Dumpling

3 Cups	Masa Farina
2 TBSP	Coloring or dye
2 ½ Cups	Boiled water

6 Cups	Boiling Water
1 TBSP	Lye (optional)

Mix masa farina and coloring. Add water until the mixture is stiff enough to handle easily. Mold into patties and drop into the boiling water and lye mixture. Cook the patties 15-20 minutes.

*Each month a recipe for traditional food from a *Muscogee Nation News* reader will be listed.

If you would like to submit your traditional recipe, please mail to: Muscogee Nation News, Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447 or e-mail at jtaryole@muscogeenationnsn.gov.

Tribal Celebration

WETUMKA — Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town will be hosting Tribal Celebration '05 on April 22 & 23 at the Armory Building. The armory is located at the 300 block of west St. Louis.

Activities include: princess pageant on Friday; elderly activities; 3-on-3 basketball; team horseshoe tournament; co-ed volleyball; and kid's olympics for children 12 & under. Arts & Crafts and food concessions will also be available. The entertainment will be "Red Dawn Blues Band".

For exact times and details, call Millie Wind or Tilda Harjo at (405) 452-3987, Augustine Asbury or Marsey Harjo at (405) 452-3881 or Lena Wind at (405) 452-3659.

Upcoming Spring Arts Schedule

OKMULGEE — The Creek Council House, in collaboration with the Muscogee Creek Nation Historic and Cultural Preservation, have created classes on pottery, basketry and fingerweaving that began on January 29. These classes are continuation series and will include two classes for the Heddle Loom for fingerweaving. There is also two filled days dedicated to clay processing, cane harvesting and dyes.

The schedule for upcoming classes is as follows: April 22, & 23 — Beadwork class; April 30 — Finishing of projects; May 7 — Finishing of projects; May 14 — Finishing of projects; and May 14 thru June 14 — Starting Artist Show.

For further information call Ted Isham at (918) 756-2324.

Spring Contest Powwow

STILLWATER — Oklahoma State University Native American Student Association will host their Spring Contest Powwow on April 23 at Colvin Center Annex, located across from the OSU Police Department.

The head staff includes: head singer, Joe Fish Dupoint of Carnegie; master of ceremonies, Archie Mason of Tulsa; head man dancer, Jason Lightfoot of Apache; head lady dancer, Katherine Leroy of Pawnee; host gourd clan, Central Oklahoma Tribal Society of Perkins; color guard, Choctaw Nation Color Guard; and arena director, Mark Wilson of Tulsa.

Contests include: tiny tots; junior girls; junior boys; women's cloth, buckskin, jingle and fancy shawl; men's straight, fancy, grass and traditional; and golden age men and golden age women.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. with a gourd dance and supper will start at 5 p.m. The grand entry will begin at 6:30 with drum contest to follow.

For more information, contact the Multicultural Student Center at (405) 744-5481 or e-mail: pg.coser@okstate.edu.

Exhibition stompdance to be performed

Albuquerque, N.M. — An exhibition stompdance will be performed by citizens of Muscogee (Creek) Nation stompdancers at the "22nd Annual Gathering of Nations."

The stompdancers will perform on April 30, after the Miss Indian World Crowning, at 9:30 p.m.

All events will take place at the University of New Mexico's "The Pit." The address is Avenida Cesar Chavez Blvd. SE (Hwy. 25, exit #223).

"The Gathering of Nations has never had a Stompdance presentation and it will be so exciting for everyone attending to see", said Melonie Matthews, Gathering of Nations/Miss Indian World Program.

Cultural Day

OKMULGEE — The office of Child Care will be having their Spring Cultural Day event on May 5 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

There will be demonstrations on different types of traditional foods, creek singing, traditional craft items, stompdance and more.

For more information, contact Newman Frank at (918) 732-7680.

Spring Powwow

SAPULPA — Sapulpa Public Schools Native American Student Association will hold their Annual Spring Powwow on May 7 at the Creek County Fairgrounds Arena. The fairgrounds are located at 17808 U.S. 66, just west of SH 33 on south side of U.S. 66.

The program begins with stickball at 3 p.m., followed by gourd dancing at 4 p.m. and grand entry starting at 7 p.m.

The head staff includes: host drum, "Riverside Boyz"; head gourd singer, Matt Horse; head man dancer, Mike Pahsetopah; head jr. man dancer, Jon Foster; head lady dancer, Lisa Pahsetopah; head jr. lady dancer, LaRhonda Bear; and color guard will be Sapulpa Public Schools Jr. ROTC. All drums and singers welcome.

For more information, call the Sapulpa Indian Education Office at 224-6560 extension 2061.

Graduation Powwow

TAHLEQUAH — Sequoyah Indians will host their "Honoring our Graduates Accomplishments" Graduation Powwow on May 7 at the Sequoyah High School Football Field.

The contest categories include: male categories, straight, traditional and grass/fancy; female, jingle, fancy shawl and cloth/buckskin; junior categories, female combined and male combined; and tiny tots.

Head man and head lady will be Sonny Hawk of Tahlequah and Bridgett Blackowl of El Reno. The head gourd will be Geoff White of Shawnee. Kelly Anquo of Tahlequah will serve as emcee. Wiley Littlecreek of Okemah will serve as head singer. The host color guard will be Talking Leaves Job Corp and H.O.P.E. Club members.

The gourd dance will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dinner will be served from 5 until 6 p.m. Another gourd dance will be at 6 until 7 p.m., followed by grand entry from 7:30 until 8 p.m. The contest will begin at 8 until 11:30 p.m.

For more information, call Gloria Matthews or James Nells at 918-456-0631.

Basket weaving at Creek Council House Museum

OKMULGEE — The cultural class in basket weaving held at the Creek Council House Museum (CCHM) took a field trip to Schuler to harvest honeysuckle vines.

The ancestors harvested vines to make baskets for use to gather food and storage. After harvesting, the group returned to CCHM and prepared the vines.

The leaves were stripped off the vines by using corn cobs and modern day pot scrubber. The vines are dried, then ready for weaving.



Army Corps allows permit for mine in Creek homeland

reprinted from Indianz.com

MACON, GA. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved a permit for mine for clay in the homeland of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

The permit allows Cherokee Brick & Tile Co. to mine for clay in the Ocmulgee Old Fields. The permit lasts for 50 years, the longest mining permit issued by the Savannah District of the Army Corps.

The Creek Nation vigorously opposed the permit. The tribe says burial grounds and archaeological sites will be destroyed.

To read the full article, please visit www.indianz.com/News/2005/006963.asp and click get story — 'Brick company gets OK to mine floodplain' link.

Native Praise Choir to sing in England

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND — The Native Praise Choir will be a feature of the North American Baptist Women's Union report at the Women's Leadership Development Conference on July 23 through 26 at Aston University.

The choir began in 1999 and is composed of more than 100 women, ages 14-85, from 17 different tribes and 40+ churches. The choir sings Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek hymns. They sing in the traditional style, unaccompanied and with lead singers, rather than a director.

They have sung in a variety of settings in Oklahoma, including: the annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma; Indian Falls Creek; the annual meeting of Women's Missionary Union of Oklahoma; Promise Seekers Ladies Retreat; various tribal events and a wide variety of churches and associations throughout

the state.

In June 2002, they were the feature choir in St. Louis for the annual session of Women's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist Convention. They have also sung in a variety of settings in North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Arkansas and the District of Columbia.



Native Praise Choir
photo provided by NABWU

In June 2003, Native Praise sang for a statewide Native American rally held at the Ford Center in Oklahoma City.

In addition to native hymns, choir members often share testimonies and a drama about traditions in Creek/Seminole churches. They wear native dresses and sometimes present a "style show," explaining the significance of each feature.

Native Praise is sponsored by The Native American LINK, Inc., a Christian ministry located in Eufaula.

Church Events

Creek Singing

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center will host an afternoon of Creek singing on May 14.

There will be a pot luck lunch beginning at 11 a.m. The singing will begin shortly after 12 p.m.

Churches and choirs will participate in the all-day singing that will last until 5 p.m.

This event is promoting Creek hymns/Creek singing only and is the first of its kind at the community center.

The community center is located at 8611 S. Union and the phone number is 298-2464. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Gospel Singing

OKEMAH — Springfield Methodist Church will be having their annual gospel singing on May 29 at 7 p.m.

The emcee's will be Springfield members. Concession will be available.

The church is located two miles south on Highway 27 from Okemah, four miles east and then one mile south.

Church celebration

HITCHITA — Grave Creek Baptist Church will be celebrating 148 years on May 29 at 6 p.m.

There will be gospel singing and the "word"

spoken. Dinner will be served between 4 and 5:30 p.m.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Concession will be available thru the evening. Speakers will be announced as follows. Signs will be posted.

For more information, please call 918-752-0980.

Creek Hymn Singing

OKMULGEE — Creek hymn singing will be presented at the 31st Annual Muscogee (Creek) Festival on June 17th & 18th.

The church limit has increased this year to the first 15 churches of the Methodist and Baptist denomination.

Those churches that are interested in participating in the Creek hymn singing can call, Helen Coon at 227-0896 or Mike Coon at 693-3391.

Oklahoma Flute Circle

NORMAN — The Jacobson House Native Art Center hosts playing and discussing the Native American flute taught by Native flutiest, Terry Tsotigh and Edmond Nevaquaya.

The classes meet on the first Fridays of each month from 7 until 9 p.m. There is no admission.

The Jacobson House Native Art Center is located at 609 Chautauqua Avenue.

For more information, please call 405-325-1431.

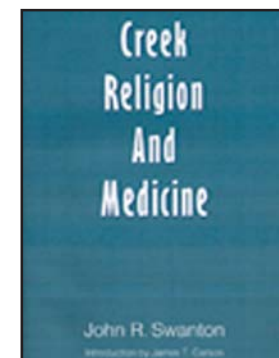
Creek Religion and Medicine

by John R. Swanton with Introduction by James T. Carson

Creek Religion and Medicine weaves together a wide array of historical sources with oral accounts gathered from fieldwork, this classic study provides a valuable overview of traditional Creek (Muscogee) religion and medicine. John R. Swanton visited the Creek Nation in the early twentieth century and learned about many important aspects of Creek religious life and medicine. Subjects covered in the book include Creek conceptions of the cosmos; religious stories; death and the afterlife; spiritual forces and beings; various rituals, including the Busk ceremony; prohibitions; the power and skills of different religious practitioners; the cultural force of witchcraft; and herbal and spiritual remedies. Many of these beliefs and practices have been present throughout Creek history and persist today. *Creek Religion and Medicine* showcases the vibrant culture of an enduring southeastern Native people.

John R. Swanton (1873-1958) was a seminal figure in the study of southeastern Native peoples, with more than thirty books to his credit. James Taylor is an assistant professor of history at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

The ISBN number is 0-8032-9274-0. The book is available through the University of Nebraska Press, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0630 or call at 1-800-755-1105.



Indian Falls Creek 2005

DAVIS — Indian Falls Creek 2005 will be held on August 1 through 5. The theme for Indian Falls Creek 2005 will be "Fill the House".

The camp preacher will be Clint Sinclair, a well known evangelist. The worship team will consist of Jesse Hernandez, Tyrone Smith, Donna Bear and Neil Thompson.

The registration fees for adults through 6 years old is \$20 and for children 5 years and younger is \$8.

For housing options, please call Slim Crabtree, housing director, at 405-382-2334 or Jim Gordon at 405-382-3564.

For more information contact, Victor Cope at 405-598-8720 or e-mail at NDNrev@aol.com.

Meeting

continued from page 1

We appreciate the grounds, they are very important part of this nation. Mike Flud was involved in establishing our Tribal College and the Board of Regents our Tribal College and now offers Beginner and Intermediate Creek language classes, Native American Government, Native American History and Crisis Intervention for our Lighthorse Police. Flud also feels our language is very important to the survival of our culture. We are based here at the complex to support the services that the tribe offers.

Sanitation and Human Health issues were addressed also we will plan a strategy to reduce the risk of spilling and flowing of dangerous materials. The Tribal Environmental protection situations, this information is beneficial to use to reduce this level, brochures were available explaining IHS services available. Contact us to talk about what services are available to you at any level.

Chief Ellis informed everyone in attendance of new services now available at the tribe and encouraged all to inquire and utilize these services. Veterans Affairs office assists with their paperwork and they are now drawing additional amounts they never knew they were entitled to. Right now, in the past eight months Creek Nation veterans are now drawing over \$190,000 per month in entitled benefits.

First to speak was Tallahassee-Cromwell Mekko Thomas Yahola voiced his concern about some of the grounds not owning the lands where their grounds are. We've been successful with the purchase of one of our grounds this month. He worries about what the heirs of these properties are going to do, they may want to sell the property, he feels that the grounds need an attorney that will make the property a priority.

Alabama Mekko Bobby Yargee spoke fluently in the Muscogee language. His concerns were also of the environmental issues. His interest was about running water and facilities. He was there to listen and gather information on behalf of his people.

This was Weogufkee (Muddy Water) Mekko Billy Hill's first time being involved said he really came to listen to see what the other Mekkos have to say.

Duck Creek Mekko Simon Harry asked Henelv Felix Brown to speak on his behalf, on environmental issues and sanitation we try to keep our land clean as much as we can, it is pretty clean, but it is something we do need to keep working on.

Nuyaka Mekko Phillip Deere, Jr was unable to attend but he did send their Henelv Eunice Hill. In respect to Mekko Deere he came to listen. Hill also reiterated in Creek. Hill said. "He was sitting in for Mekko Deere

today to gather information and return to him with what he would learn today. It's good to see that our Mekkos attend and participate in these events coordinated by Principal Chief Ellis and his staff."

Hickory Ground Mekko George Thompson was glad to see everyone in attendance and that friendships were kept throughout the long winter. Our ground is located on private land we'd like to have a lease. We are always thinking about our young ones coming up I would like to say to our next generation, "be part of their ground, being out in the big city they need to realize where they came from."

Arbeka Mekko Raymond Meeley, had nothing to say at the moment he just wanted to sit in and listen.

Fish Pond Mekko Thomas Mack, Hillabee Mekko Daniel Harjo, Peach Ground Mekko Roman Hill or their designees were not in attendance.

Okfuskee Mekko Barney Harjochee and Farron Culley Heles Pvtcv and Entvkvpla expressed their appreciation of being invited to this meeting. They came to listen to all the concerns going on at our grounds, you speak about all the environmental issues, Okfuskee does not allow running water at their

ground. "Our young people are losing their culture," Culley said. "He looked on the internet at our tribal website it had no information about our grounds only a picture of people stomp dancing. We have these young kids that get on the internet to explore we need to fulfill their curiosity to learn and preserve what we have. I think what we have is well worth preserving. This is our life, what we believe in and who we are. We should be proud of our culture." Culley said this meeting was very special to them.

New Tulsa Mekko Jeff Fixico's main concern is the land issues for New Tulsa and other grounds affected. They are in the middle of negotiating a land sale waiting on word from Creek Nation. They kind of got threatened by the land owner. They said if we didn't pay in three days she would lease it to someone else and we would lose it. These types of issues exist for all grounds owned by others than themselves. Fixico stated "his parents are both New Tulsan which makes him full-blood New Tulsan, I can't go and join up with a new ground if my place comes to end that's it for me, There are a bunch of us out there. Hopefully one of these days Creek Nation will own that land, we would like to have running water, and some restrooms down there, but it would cause maintenance problems sometimes there are a bunch of kids with red bandanas. They think they are gangsters and vandalize with graffiti." Fixico brought a couple of their Tvstvnvkes with him.

Iron Post (Sand Creek) Mekko Gary Bucktrot said they own their land. He inquired about assistance with sign replacement. So that these grounds wishing to be identified will be. Their ground's main concern is vandalism. He wishes

charges can be brought up against them.

Kellyville (Polecat) Mekko Jim Brown and Second Chief Lewis Brown are interested in talking to someone about land issues. The more heirs there are to deal the more complicated it gets, we don't know exactly who owns our land this is our main issue.

Green Leaf Mekko Bill Proctor said we of the ceremonial grounds all know each other and have a pretty close relationship. We all know the concerns out there. Being a Chief is a special honor, sometimes I don't feel that way, people look up to you, show a lot of respect to you. I feel I'm just like any other human being just like every one else. I do a lot of thinking on the ceremonial ground. I'm not a true Green leaf my wife is a true green leaf that's the reason that I'm there. I'm borrowed from there every four years, then I renew the contract. The true Mekkos are the ones that are there for life. Our main concern is the land issue. A long time ago they set a verbal agreement. Some times that does not hold true now days. We (the grounds) all have the same concern, our elders are gone, and the younger generation doesn't understand what its going on out there. We are very fortunate to be at a meeting like this, it shows that Chief Ellis has a lot of concern of keeping the fire going. We need to take care of it, people use to go to these ceremonial grounds and take 'heleswv and wash off'. When you think about it, it does affect those people, you see a lot of people with sickness. If we are going to stay healthy my concern is to keep it going. We have a gift and we've got to keep it going. When your language is gone, it's gone. Right now these Ceremonial Grounds are vital part of keeping it going. The other areas of concern are sanitation issues, due to us not having big containers and not having a concrete slab we have problems. These are some areas that we would need assistance with, each ground has their separate issues. We need to know who to contact, who to talk to about these issues.

Mekko Bill Proctor said he was "glad to be here, we were here a year ago and we really didn't know what to expect at that time I appreciate Chief Ellis for recognizing the ceremonial grounds this is the root of our ancestry."

Green Leaf 's second Chief Jimmy Deere accompanied Mekko Bill Proctor. He echoed the same sentiments as his Mekko and wanted the other grounds to be careful and aware of what is on paper in black and white because it can lose it's meaning on different things.

Tallahassee Wykokaye Mekko David Proctor was unable to attend the meeting. Mekko Proctor has began preparations for their season. Tvstvnvke James Proctor attended in his place to gather information. James gave the history of how Tallahassee Wykokaye came to be today.

All the Mekkos present expressed their sincerest appreciation to Principal Chief Ellis for his concerns of our grounds and his understanding of our way of life. Chief Ellis maintains his belief that the ceremonial grounds are vital to the survival of our culture. Chief Ellis promised to hold next year's meeting in March so it would not interfere with the grounds preparation of the season. The Mekkos were all in agreement of looking forward to the next meeting in March 2006.



Green Leaf Ceremonial Ground Mekko Bill Proctor and Second Chief Jimmy Deere

Division of Health

The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Division of Health is looking for qualified individuals for the following positions:

- Pediatric Dentist – Okmulgee:
Requirements: Must be eligible for Pediatric Licensure in the state of Oklahoma.
- Van Driver (2 positions):
Muskogee ENP and Twin Hills ENP
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Incumbent must possess a current food handler’s permit. An excellent driving record is required. Valid Oklahoma State Driver’s License and be insurable.
- CEO – Division of Health Administration:
Requirements: Academic training through the Masters level in one of the public or allied health sciences, Business or Management fields. Substantial experience managing public health programs which encompasses work in the following direct health care activities; Hospital/Ambulatory Care, Preventative/Rehabilitation/Contract Health services. In addition candidates must clearly show demonstrated ability to work with health care professional organizations at the State or National level. Evidence of an extensive amount of professional development and accomplishments as evidenced by promotions, career broadening assignments, demonstrated ability in public and professional presentations, active participation in professional organizations recipient of award of honors from nationally recognized associations for excellence and/or outstanding contributions to the filed.
- Secretary for Reintegration Program:
Requirements: Associates in Science Degree with emphasis on Secretarial or Administrative Assistance is preferred or five years relevant work experience in office management. Work experience in an office environment with adult and/or juvenile legal or social services is preferred. Must possess a valid Oklahoma State Driver’s license and be insurable.
- Cook’s Aide (3 positions):
Dewar and Sapulpa (part time) and Muskogee (three fourths time)
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent and one year related work experience. Incumbent must possess a valid food handlers permit and a valid Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.
- Clinician – Behavioral Health Services:
Requirements: A Master’s Degree in Counseling Psychology or related field. One year relevant experience in counseling. LPC, LMFT or LCSW licensure/certifications valid in the State of Oklahoma is preferred. Incumbents who do not possess valid licensure / certifications as specified must be actively working toward obtaining this

- licensure/certification.
- Benefits Coordinator – Human Resources:
Requirements: Associates Degree in a related field of study. A Bachelors Degree is preferred. Two years related experience. Incumbent must possess a current Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.
- Human Resources Assistant:
Requirements: Associates Degree in a related field of study. One year relevant experience. Additional experience may be substituted for education. Incumbent must possess a current Oklahoma State Drivers License and be insurable.
- Staff Dentist (Part-Time):
Requirements: A DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and a certificate from an accredited General Practice Residency program. Or a DDS or DMD from a dental school accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation. Licensure or ability to be licensed to practice dentistry in a state, territory or commonwealth of the United States, or in the District of Columbia. One year of relevant experience in addition to experience gained through an accredited residency program or three additional years of relevant experience without certification from an accredited residency program as stated in the educational requirements.
- Pharmacist:
Requirements: A graduate of an accredited college / university of Pharmacy or is a Public Health Service Pharmacy Officer. One year relevant experience as a Pharmacist or PHS Pharmacy Officer. Must possess a current Oklahoma State Board of Pharmacy license or current license as required by the PHS Commissioned Corp.
- Maintenance Technician:
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. Completion of training or program in carpentry, building/property maintenance or related field is preferred. One year relevant experience in facility maintenance is required. Relevant professional licenses or certifications related to position are not required but will benefit the incumbent.
- Case Manager for the Reintegration Program:
Requirements: A Bachelors Degree in Social. A minimum of four years work experience related to parole supervision or counseling. Must possess a valid Oklahoma State Drivers license and be insurable.
- Billing Technician:
Requirements: Associates Degree in accounting or a related business field is preferred. One year relevant work experience is required with an Associates Degree. Four years of relevant work experience may be substituted

- for the educational requirement stated above.
- Breast Feeding Peer Counselor (WIC):
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED is required. One year of relevant experience is required. Valid driver’s license is required and must be insurable. Incumbent must have a telephone and reliable transportation.
- Receptionist - BHS - Sapulpa:
Requirements: High School Diploma or GED equivalent is required. A minimum of one year related experience is required.
- Special Projects Officer:
Requirements: A Bachelor’s Degree in a relevant field is required. A minimum of three years relevant experience is required. Substantial relevant experience may be substituted for the educational requirements Incumbent must possess valid Oklahoma State Driver License and be insurable.
- Application Procedures:
Submit a current Division employment application form or resume, (a transfer request form for current employees). All application materials are to be submitted to the attention of the staffing specialist. For further information call Personnel Services at 918-756-4333 Extension 271. The Division is an Equal Opportunity Employer, however, Indian Preference will be applied in the case of equally qualified applicants.

Casino

- Muscogee Nation Gaming Security Officer:
Qualifications: Must be at least 21 years of age with high school diploma or equivalent with a valid drivers license Must be able to pass a background check and MMPI within the first 90 days. Must be drug and alcohol free. Creek Indian Preference, but all applicants will be considered.
- Submit applications to Muskogee Creek Nation Casino or to Creek Nation Gaming Security P. O. Box 1393, Okmulgee, OK. 74447.

Trade & Commerce

- Trade and Commerce is accepting applications for the following:
- Travel Plaza - Okmulgee
Travel Plaza - Muskogee
Muscogee Document Imaging
Farm Authority
- For more information on employment opportunities at Trade & Commerce contact Alexis at 918-732-7764.
- These jobs have an Indian Preference.

Business

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Due to retirements, difficulty in recruiting replacements, and plans for the remote operation of the locks not yet finalized, an innovative solution to providing these services was needed for an interim solution. Working with our Operations Division and a Native American owned 8(a) firm, Tulsa District was able to award a contract to provide these vital services to the public.

Tulsa District's efforts to improve the participation of small business in the District's environmental program were significant.

In March 2004 Tulsa District awarded a Multiple Award Task Order Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity Contract (ID/IQ) for paving requirements in our civil works infrastructure. This specialized skill has been contracted for in many ways in years past with limited results. This method allowed us to select three highly qualified HUB zone firms who compete for each task order under the contract umbrella. This process continues to assure the District receives high quality products at reasonable prices.

The District realized that such an ID/IQ would provide the District an outstanding contracting tool — one that the District can use to meet its paving needs throughout the District throughout the contract life. These HUB zone contractors can participate as a prime contractor in lieu of seeking subcontracting opportunities from any number of primes where before paving was typically included as a component in an otherwise varied-task scope of work. This superior, successful, new and innovative approach to targeting functions for ID/IQ contracts has been expanded to include painting, mechanical, and other work as well. The approach provides contracting dollar savings for the government, provides a consistent, quality assured, product for our infrastructure managers, and provides the small, disadvantaged-business contractors with a significant measure of certainty with respect to future contracted work. This certainty allows him to better manage his resources and successfully address our workload requirements.

In April 2004 Tulsa District awarded three multiple award task order contracts for indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity Comprehensive Environmental Contracts (CEC). These contracts cover work in a wide range of environmental services including design, remediation, construction, operation and maintenance activities. These contracts are unique in the broad range of services available and in the three types of businesses available. A "large business" pool of 3 contractors is available within a \$200 million ceiling; a "small business" pool of 3 contractors is available within a \$60 million ceiling; and, an "8(a) small business" pool of 3 is available within a \$40 million ceiling.

Unlike the Total Environmental Remediation Contracts that expired in 2004, the CECs provide a singularly robust opportunity for small businesses to participate as prime contractors under a significantly large

contract umbrella in addition to the many, varied subcontracting opportunities available through CEC task orders executed by the large and other small firms. The District's development of the CEC task order evaluation and task order award processes that ensure these small businesses and 8(a) contractors are given full opportunity to engage and participate in Tulsa District's Environmental Mission.

In Aug 2004 Tulsa District awarded a purchase order for cedar clearing at Fort Sill in the amount of \$91,000. The uniqueness of this award for a common service was that it was the first Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Set Aside acquisition ever awarded by the District. The selected firm accomplished the work successfully and this initial award reflects our District's strong commitment and firm support for the Service Disabled Veteran-owned Small Business Program.

Tulsa District contracting staff significantly modified an existing contracting tool to create Tulsa District's Performance Oriented Construction Award Contracts (POCA's)—the first such contracting tools in the Corps. In FY04 the District had 5 such contracts in place, all with 8(a) firms, and was working at year's end on 2 additional POCA contracts. This contracting tool has been adopted for use by both the Sacramento and Los Angeles Districts.

These innovative contracting mechanisms provide small businesses new and important opportunities to learn and develop their ability to compete for larger, more complex, ID/IQ type contracted work offered by us and other entities as well. Because the POCA's are task order contracts, the savings to the District's contracting resources (i.e. both time and money) is significant and especially noteworthy given today's economic climate.

Other noteworthy and meritorious accomplishments include the following examples:

The successes in the FY04 Small Business Program were not atypical. In the last three years the Tulsa District has averaged placing \$231M in contract awards with an average of 44.99% of those contract dollars with small businesses, 27.88% with small disadvantaged businesses, 18.08% with 8(a) firms, 3.25% with women-owned firms, 12.35% with HUBzone small businesses, and 76.26% of dollars spent with institutions of higher learning to HBCU/MIs.

Tulsa District again excelled in the competitive award of the District's contracts. The District exceeded its goal in this area for the 20th consecutive year, awarding 99.33% of our contract dollars competitively vice a goal of 98%. This achievement underscores the District's commitment to providing opportunity to all businesses, small and non-small, to participate in our work while gaining and building upon the skills necessary to compete in the open market.

Our Chief of Contracting, Mr. Rick Hedrick's service to the Corps of Engineers and the Tulsa District includes four years service as the Deputy for Small

Business. His experience and expertise provides the strongest advocate for small businesses outside the District's Small Business Office. His thorough understanding of the Federal Government's commitment to its small business programs coupled with his own personal commitment to maximizing the use of small businesses in executing the District's missions directly and positively impacts on the District's tremendous success in meeting and routinely exceeding Army goals for its Small Business Programs.

The Deputy for Small Business, Ms. Yolane Hartsfield, participates in numerous small business conferences, workshops, and seminars in support of the Small Business Administration, the Oklahoma Small Business Development Centers, the Oklahoma and Texas Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (including Oklahoma's Bid Assistance Network providers). She has developed educational programs and taught to industry on such subjects as marketing small business to the COE, understanding the COE contracting processes, understanding the COE contracting tools, and how the COE missions and small businesses can team to execute our local, regional, and national missions.

The Tulsa District works diligently to be accessible to small business firms. For example, Ms. Hartsfield and Mr. Hedrick routinely open their office for one on one meetings with small business representatives. Their insights, expertise, and experience provide these small business leaders with tools to effectively, and successfully, work with the Corps of Engineers. One of the questions they invariably asks of small businesses is "If you could choose the first project to do for the Tulsa District to demonstrate your company's skills and abilities, what would it be?" This question causes the small business to focus on their core capabilities. One small business in FY04 took this question home and that company and its employees engaged themselves for the year in answering that question. They reported that answering this question transformed their company. They stated they had restructured and refocused their business plans and marketing approach — and had already begun to see the positive fruits of that labor.

Work at the Tulsa District is varied, challenging and accessible to small businesses. The first step is contacting the Tulsa District's Small Business Office at 918-669-7530.

Native American Funeral Home

210 E. First St. ~ Bristow, OK 74010
918-367-1045



Service with Love, Honor & Respect

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Tribal casino sums to be made public

The Oklahoman

"The public will be allowed to see documents showing how much money each tribe makes from certain casino games," said State Finance Director Scott Meacham.

Meacham said he sought a legal opinion last month, when the first dollars began pouring in from passage of State Question 712, whether he could release the amount paid to the state by each tribe. Those figures help indicate how much tribes make from certain electronic gambling machines and table games such as poker and blackjack.

An assistant attorney general told Meacham that the payments are subject to the state's Open Records Act. Meacham said no tribes have raised concerns about the issue since voters approved SQ 712, the racetrack casino measure that also expanded tribal gaming. Tribes only have to report revenue figures from games covered by that new law.

Meacham said he hasn't asked whether the Open Records Act covers similar payments for casino games at three pari-mutuel horse tracks. Their payments could more reasonably be construed as taxes, so they may not be public, he said.

The total received by his office for February revenues was \$304,352, all from table games at tribal casinos. Electronic games covered under the new law haven't been installed yet. Meacham said the Cherokee Nation paid about \$236,000 of the total.

Brian Foster, chairman of the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association, objects to tribal revenue figures being made public. "It's a sovereignty issue," said Foster, who also manages two Lucky Star casinos for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. "I don't think any tribe wants their business public," he said. Foster's concern isn't shared by every gaming tribe, however.

Bob Rabon, general counsel for the Choctaw Nation, said tribal officials always assumed casino revenue figures would be open to public inspection once the compacts took effect. "That's how you arrive at what the (state) fees are," Rabon said. "I don't think they would object to it."

He said many tribes, including the Choctaws, may want to keep certain records private, such as the amount spent for casino advertising and public relations. But as for casino profits, Rabon said, "It just seems to me that ... it should be public information as to what the bottom line is, what number you use to arrive at the percentage to be paid to the State of Oklahoma."

Rick Grellner, who represents several smaller tribes, noted that under the 1988 federal law covering Indian gaming, financial records are considered proprietary information. During a congressional investigation almost a decade ago, federal regulators sided with the industry to keep those records private, Grellner said.

Government delays gaming rules

The Oklahoman

The federal agency regulating Indian casinos has shelved new rules designed to control the proliferation of certain electronic games like those found in Oklahoma. However, industry sources said that decision will have little effect here, now that state voters have authorized a new form of tribal casino gambling.

In a news release Friday, the National Indian Gaming Commission announced an indefinite postponement of public hearings that were to take place this month in Oklahoma City, San Diego and Washington. The agency said it wants to wait until "interested parties" can study the changes.

The decision comes two weeks after the U.S. Justice Department told the commission that Congress — not the regulatory agency — should make the changes. Millions upon millions of dollars is at stake for tribes and their casino partners, including electronic machine makers and casino management companies.

The proposed changes concern complicated technical standards for machines classified as Class II gambling. Under federal law, Class II must be based on bingo or pull tabs. However, critics claim that through the years, games have strayed far from that requirement. Concerns about the rule changes were instrumental in Oklahoma's tribes agreeing to pay the state a portion of their profits as part of a compact.

The compacting process, approved by state voters in November, allowed tribal casinos to offer faster machines and tournament-style card games. Federal regulators "were going to make the (Class II) games much less attractive to players," said Bob Rabon, general counsel for the Choctaw Nation and a key figure in last year's compact negotiations.

Some industry officials concluded that the new rules would have eliminated all of the games in Oklahoma and replaced them with slower, less profitable knockoffs.

Only a few Oklahoma tribes still offer Class II games.

Creek Nation Casino – Tulsa: April Promos Spring Fling Chrysler Sebring Mondays, March 7th through May 23rd, 6 pm to 10 pm

Spring is here! Just in time for warm weather driving, Creek Nation Casino's new Ladies Night gives you the chance to drive away in America's trendiest convertible. Back by popular demand, we are continuing with the drawings for fifteen seconds in the money machine. Make sure you grab as much of the flying money as you can, because the two players who come out with the most cash each Monday will get a key that could start up a 2005 Chrysler Sebring convertible on May 23rd!

KQLL 70's Happy Hour Tuesdays, 4 pm – 6 pm

Join us for a groovy time at Creek Nation Casino –Tulsa every Tuesday from 4 pm -6 pm for our 70's Happy Hour party! Stop by the Players Club to get your coupon for your choice of onion rings, french fries, corn dogs, or Pop Rocks for just 70 cents!

Boatloads of Bucks Wednesdays, March 9th through June 1st, 6 pm to 10 pm

Men, excitement is truly in the air! The ladies are going wild over the money machine drawings, and now you have the opportunity to take on the whirlwind of flying money! Come out to Creek Nation Casino on

Wednesday nights to win your shot at fifteen seconds in the money machine. The two players collecting the most cash each Wednesday will receive a key, and on June 1, one lucky winner will float out of here on a 2005 Boat!

Thirsty Thursdays Thursdays through May 5th, 6 pm to 10 pm

Join us Thursday evenings from 6 pm - 10 pm as KHITS 106.9 FM, Pepsi and Creek Nation Casino present Thirsty Thursdays. Imagine living it up in Vegas, sitting in front of a new Flat Screen TV or a wallet full of cash! It can happen, but only if you join us for Thirsty Thursdays. Pepsi will provide the beverages, KHITS will provide the tunes and Creek Nation Casino will provide some serious cash. Make sure you are one of the first 106 people in the door each Thursday night to receive your FREE official Thirsty Thursdays T-Shirt, your ticket to cash and fabulous prizes!

NASCAR 2005 Cash for the Cup Weekly through November 20, 2005

Start your engines and race on in to Creek Nation Casino for the excitement of NASCAR racing! Here's your shot at over \$100,000 in cash and prizes, including two Tony Stewart edition Monte Carlos! Play against Chris Plank from KTBZ 1430 AM for weekly cash prizes, a NASCAR Special Edition Car and a trip to the 2006 Daytona 500. Who else is going to reward you for your excellent NASCAR knowledge?

National Indian Gaming Association begins media credentialing for trade show

SAN DIEGO, C.A. — The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) announced on-line media credentialing has begun for the organization's annual trade show and convention, which will be held this year at the San Diego Convention Center from April 10-13.

The theme of this year's convention, *Tribal Government Gaming: Rebuilding Communities through Indian Self-Reliance*, will feature remarks from California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, NIGA chairman Ernie Stevens, Jr., and former U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Cambell.

Journalists and media organizations can go to <http://www.indiangaming.org/info/pr/credentials/shtml> to fill out an application or to obtain more information about this year's convention.

Adult tobacco survey in your community

OKMULGEE — In an effort to better understand the effects of smoking within the Mvskoke people, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tobacco Prevention Program (TPP) Support Centers for Tobacco Programs will be conducting comprehensive Adult Tobacco Surveys (ATS) in tribal communities.

The Tobacco Prevention Program is one of seven Center of Disease Control and Prevention Tribal Support Centers in the United States. Six of the Support Centers will conduct the Adult Tobacco Survey in one to three tribes/tribal communities in their area. Those Support Centers participating include Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairman’s Health Board, Alaska Native Health Board, California Rural Indian Health Board, Inter-tribal Council of Michigan, Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board and Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Participating tribal communities have actively collaborated with TPP in the overall project development and implementation, including but not limited to survey design, staff recruitment and data collection activities.

TPP will collect approximately 400 completed ATS of enrolled tribal members 18 years of age and older that live within the Creek Nation boundaries. The TPP will be responsible for obtaining the completed surveys. Trained individuals from each of the respective communities will conduct the face-to-face surveys.

Tobacco has many medicinal, spiritual and practical uses. These ceremonial and cultural uses for tobacco differ from the habitual uses of commercial tobacco products. Hence, it is important to further evaluate the reasons for habitual use of commercial tobacco among specific tribal populations and to uncover other tobacco-related information.

To date, no conclusive tobacco use studies have been done specifically for distinct tribal communities. The high prevalence of tobacco use, its serious health consequences and lack of attention paid to tobacco use and abuse in AI/AN populations supports the need to implement a comprehensive and culturally relevant Adult Tobacco Survey (ATS).

This survey will empower the TPP to effectively

gather tobacco specific data related to their citizens. This data can further be used to direct program planning and evaluation, to determine health priorities and to develop specific intervention strategies and policies, which target relevant subgroups. It will also enable us to use our much dwindling resource dollars more effectively.

Prior to the Adult Tobacco Survey Administration, work continued with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) conducting pretesting in MCN communities, which consist of focus groups and cognitive interviews. Whereas the original ATS was pretested before, pretesting is necessary because the original ATS has been significantly revised to accommodate use with AI/AN populations.

The final AI/AN ATS instrument(s) will include issues of tobacco use that are unique to the Native population, such as ceremonial use. Trained American Indian interviewers will contact potential respondents and invite them to participate in the survey. If they agree to participate, they will have the consent form read to them and sign the form to indicate consent. Each interview will require about thirty to sixty minutes to administer and respondents will be compensated for the interview with a \$25 gift card from Wal-Mart. Each respondent will be provided with an explanation of the purpose, general content and time commitment involved in completing the survey with assurance of confidentiality. Each prospective respondent will be given the opportunity to ask any questions at the time of the interview and will be provided with the name and contact information of the Interview Supervisor and/or the Project Coordinator who can answer any questions before and after the interview is completed. Respondents will have the option to decline participation and/or refuse to answer any specific question without loss of health

care benefits or services.

All data collected during the surveys will be held in the strictest confidence at all times by the interviewers, the ATS Project Coordinators and TPP Staff. To ensure privacy and confidentiality of survey respondents, no personal identifiers will be collected during the interviews. Once interviews are completed and the responses have been verified for completeness and internal consistency, all links to personal information will be destroyed. No individual will be identifiable in any reports that are prepared based on the results of the survey.

Tribes surveyed will acquire ownership of the ATS data. The survey results will provide tribes and health projects with data on their adult members’ knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and behaviors regarding tobacco use in each of these communities to enhance already existing programs.

Whether you use tobacco or not, if you would like to participate in this historic and one of a kind survey please fill out and mail the following information. You don’t need a telephone to participate, TPP can contact you by regular mail. Your name will be added to a pool of participants and if you are selected to participate in this survey you will receive a \$25 gift card from Wal-Mart. For more information, call the Tobacco Prevention Program office at 756-6231.



Muscogee (Creek) Nation Adult Tobacco Survey

918-756-6231 116 North Grand Street, Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Reply Postcard

Please return this card to indicate your willingness to help with this survey.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Best date & time to contact you: _____

I prefer to set up a survey interview by: _____ Telephone _____ Letter _____

New Logo for Camp Cvfeknetv

STROUD — The Camp Cvfeknetv Committee has selected this year’s logo with the help of Holly Watashe and the OSU-Okmulgee’s Graphic Design Department.

Holly Watashe, is a 17 year old senior at Stroud High School. She is Muscogee, Yuchi, Otoe-Missouri and Ponca descent. Holly has attended Camp Cvfeknetv from for the past four years. Ms. Watashe’s winning art work was voted on by her fellow campers at last year’s camp.



The camp committee asked the OSU-Graphics department if they could add some special touches to Ms. Watashe’s logo.

There were a total of five students, whom Mr. Jobe, the Graphic Instructor, asked to take part in the art work. Upon completion of the assignment, the committee viewed all art work to decide on the logo that would be used for this year’s Camp Cvfeknetv. The students who took part are Adam Weatherly, Stephanie Cox, Andrea Steele, Don Hensley and Nick Jurik.

The committee voted on using Mr. Jurik’s logo. When asked what his vision was, Mr. Jurik’s explained that “I am a Graphic Design major at OSU-Okmulgee. I am in my fifth semester and I will graduate in December. With the design I wanted to create a strong image

that was original to Camp Cvfeknetv. Since we did have limitations on the colors and imagery we could use, I decided to incorporate a very loose, “splattered paint” kind style to give the design a unique feel. I also applied this style to the “hand” logo in order to give it a more updated feel. “While this project was a bit of a challenge, I enjoyed working on it very much.”



please see HEALTH..., page 22

Creek Nation revives Agricultural Program

It's a week night and late winter in northeastern Oklahoma. The promise of a sunny and warm spring is just around the corner, but the cold dark reminder of a strong, harsh wind is still very much alive. Most people at this time are just glad to get into their warm, safe haven and settle down for the evening. But children will be out late tonight. Some with their parents, others with guardians or close relatives. And they will be around what looks like a carnival type setting, all with bright lights, maybe a little good food, and loud men booming numbers out of makeshift audio system.

The majority of the youth will sport a familiar look to Oklahomans everywhere, some will have the traditional kelly green corduroy jacket with a four leaf clover insignia sewed on the back and a capital 'H' on all four leaves inside it. Older kids will don the dark blue jacket, again corduroy, that proudly bares the words 'FFA' with the announcement of the child's hometown also sewn on the back. The stage will be set in buildings filled with hay and the headliners will not necessarily be the kids themselves but their furry four legged counter parts.

The kids will come from all over the county, all for the chance to show what they have put a year's worth of sweat, care and hard work into it. Ages stemming from the elementary, junior high and high school. And the projects they have committed themselves toward are openly displayed before an adoring and judgemental audience.



From (left to right) Brittany Miles from Kellyville, Tyler Thayer from Sapulpa and Reba McCarty from Kellyville meet with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Executive Director, Claude Sumner at the Creek County Livestock Show.

Each year, the various County 4-H extension programs and Future Farmers of America, (FFA) hold their spring livestock show and auction, an event that allows children of the area to present various livestock and sell their special items to the highest bidder.

Before the bidding process, animals are judged specifically by studious judges who know what they are looking for. A wrong stance, or shiny coat can make all the difference in the world.

"At the spring livestock show that's where the 4-H and FFA kid exhibit their animals that they have been raising and taking care of", said Andrea Buck, Okmulgee County Family Consumer Services director and 4-H extension director. "They (animals) are judged and put in a sale order and only the best of the best make it to the sale or auction," said Buck.

People from the community representing several businesses and organizations are invited to come and bid on selected animals from the show.

Of the many children that take part in the enterprising program, many are Muscogee (Creek) citizens. Monica Culley, a junior high student from Okmulgee won the title of Grand Champion for her sheep that she had raised. Tyler Thayer of Sapulpa also won Grand Champion for his sheep, one that he names 'Spaz'. Only the top 16 will make the make the actual sale, so it is a very special night for all the children. Muscogee

(Creek) children will certainly make their animals, and name, known tonight.

The night of the Okmulgee County Spring Auction, Culley's sheep was bided on by the admiring crowd. In attendance were Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief A.D. Ellis and Second Chief Alfred Berryhill. Ellis and Berryhill are awarded the highest bidders. But as in regular auctions of this type, they are not exactly given the item.

"The animals aren't actually bought," explained Buck, who has been serving since September, "the people bidding are doing so to give a donation to the child raising the prized animal.

Kurt Rose, Sapulpa Agricultural Educational Instructor at Sapulpa said the kids also win awards and use the money for another animal for next year. "The money is also used for scholarships for next year," Rose explains.

Thayer is very happy that his animal is judged as one of the best, and he plans on continuing in the program that many confess is such a "confidence builder" to many of the kids.

Representatives of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation have made an effort to attend local spring auction shows to bid on Grand Champions raised by Muscogee (Creek) children. Claude Sumner, Executive Director of the tribe, feels the program helps the kids tremendously. "It (program) gives the kids good responsibility and helps

them to be accountable." Sumner won the highest bid for Spaz. After the local livestock shows are finished, the Creek livestock owners will take their animals to the Oklahoma Youth expo sale in Oklahoma City to be permanently sold. The expo is the largest livestock show in the nation.



Monica Culley, with Principal Chief Ellis and Second Chief Berryhill at the Okmulgee County Livestock show and auction

Tribe to Establish Youth Program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation has decided establish a Muscogee (Creek) Nation Youth Agriculture Program. The goals would include involving the Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal citizens youth in learning the methods and techniques of raising and managing animals as well as growing vegetable gardens.

The program will be in lieu of a 4-H program, which has had a long standing recognition of unique programs and opportunities.

The Youth program will be created to coordinate 4-H and other agriculture programs as needed.

The current 4-H program operates on a volunteer basis with a single coordinator provided by the Oklahoma State University Agriculture Department. While the program is and has been funded by special appro-

priations of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council, this Youth Agriculture Program would enhance the initial 4-H program established in 1993 and become a permanent department to serve Creek youth citizens interested in the Youth Agriculture Program.

The goals would also include providing training for health, home and social standards. The program will serve Creek youth from the ages of 9 to 19.

The program will also be expected to produce measurable results to demonstrate a need for continuity in agricultural activities toward becoming a self-sustaining program.

Some very important and advantageous differences are that the program would be staffed by Creek citizens and employees. This provides a Youth Agriculture Program that will be more directly accountable and responsible to the Executive branch of the

Muscogee (Creek) Nation. These two factors have become more important as the program continues to grow, because there are demands for more expensive and costly equipment and vehicles which need to remain under the tribal inventory due to liability and insurance requirements.

Also, the current 4-H program has now requested and received approval to use tribal land and property through a Land Use Agreement. The current agreement expires September 30, 2004. Due to the nature of needs and operations of the Youth Agriculture Program it must comply with local and county environmental laws as well as those of the tribe. The restrictions contained therein go beyond the level of decision making expected of a 4-H program volunteer coordinator, therefore, replacing the Land Use Agreement with tribal authority and supervision appears more logical and appropriate.

Spotlight

“Oklahoma has lost a genuine hero with the passing of Lt. Col. Ernest Childers. His life was and is a true inspiration.”

Ernest Childers 1918-2005

by Gerald Wofford

We tend to seek very little how, but ask much more why? All the strong people in our life go away, and our heroes have to die?

The last three months have seen the Muscogee (Creek) Tribe lose some of its very prominent such as former National Council Speaker Ken Childers, National Council members Irene Cleg-horn and Jess Kelley, as well as grant writer, Dr. Leola Taylor.

The Nation also lost one of its most historical and popular figures ever. Retired Lieutenant Colonel Ernest Childers passed away on Thursday, March 17 at the age of 87.

Childers was the only member of the tribe to ever receive the Congressional Medal of Honor and only one of five Native Americans to be recognized with such distinction. Childers' heroic actions came as a young soldier in World War II.

“Oklahoma has lost a genuine hero with the passing of Lt. Col. Ernest Childers,” said Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry. “His life was and is a true inspiration.”

In a 1999 interview with the *Muscogee Nation News*, Childers talked about that heroic day which fell on September 22, 1943 as well his exploits are looked at again.

Ernest Childers was born on February 1, 1918 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. He grew up on a farm that was part of his father's original Creek allotment. Childers grew up in a Christian home, attending church at Springtown Indian Church about ten miles north of Coweta. In high school, he attended Chilocco Indian School.

Childers, as well as other Indian students, sought ways to better themselves financially and saw joining the Oklahoma National Guard as that opportunity. The Indian boys at Chilocco had their own group, Company C, or Charlie Company of the 45th Infantry division. ‘The Fighting Thunderbirds’ was the division's nickname. These Indian boys would become part of a unique fighting group. Upon the liberation of Sicily in WW II, General George S. Patton would pay them the ultimate honor. “Born at sea, baptized in blood, your fame will never die. You are one of the best, if not the best division in the history of American arms.”

After the liberation of Sicily, the allied trekked northward into Italy and began to break the Nazi stronghold there. Childers moment would soon be upon him.

Actually Childers', moment began badly, he had fractured his foot when he stepped into a shell crater on a concrete bridge. He was unable to

walk and crawled towards an aid station. As he crawled, he encountered an enemy machine gun. He pointed out the position to another soldier who killed the enemy gunner. When he finally arrived at the aid station, he was told to wait outside. As he waited, the aid station was blown up by a direct hit.

Childers decided to double back, as he was crawling he spotted a hill with enemy fire coming from it. Childers decided to climb the hill and attack. As he climbed over one terrace he spotted part of the enemy in an old stone building. They exchanged fire, “I finally got him,” said Childers. “He stuck his head out when he shouldn't have.”

Afterwards, Childers ordered a group of his men to circle around the hill and attack. He then climbed onward. Once again he came under enemy fire. As Childers tried to seek shelter, his hand fell on a rock, out of anger he threw the rock at the enemy. “I assume they thought it was a hand grenade, because nobody throws rocks.”

Childers killed the first enemy member who jumped out and helped killed the second. As he looked toward the top of the hill, he could see another machine gunner. Childers inched forward and was able to continue climbing under enemy fire until the enemy machine gunner could not depress his gun any lower. Childers shot and killed the rifleman guarding the machine gunner, then crawled closer and killed the gunner. He captured an enemy mortar observer at the ridge of the hill, turned the prisoner over to another soldier, and fired on the remainder of the enemy which was



fleeing.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty in action, Second Lieutenant Ernest Childers was awarded the Medal of Honor on April 8, 1944. The young Creek boy from Oklahoma would have his life changed forever.

He was sent to Washington, D.C. to meet President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Childers described the Commander-In-Chief as pleasant and a very capable leader.

As the years passed, Childers would obtain the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He would train young recruits for future events such as the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In 1965, Ernest Childers would retire from the military. A remarkable career had come to an end.

“The American Indian has only one country, and when you're picked on, the American Indian never turns his back,” Childers proudly proclaimed.

Creek Nation Festival 2005 schedule of events, entry fee and application deadlines

OKMULGEE — The Creek Nation Festival will be held June 16 (evening) through 19 at the Claude Cox Omniplex.

All entry fees should be paid by cashier's check or money order unless otherwise stated and payable to "Creek Nation Festival Committee."

Junior Olympics

The junior Olympics will begin at 8:30 a.m., June 17 at Harmon stadium.

The deadline for registration is May 27. No late entries will be accepted, no exceptions. Volunteers are needed for this event.

For more information, contact Dawn Edward at (918) 732-7869 or 1-800-521-5432.

All Indian Rodeo

The Rodeo will be held June 17 and 18 starting at 7 p.m. nightly. Entry Fees are \$75 for all events, \$75 per man for team roping, and \$20 for Junior events.

Prizes will be \$1000 for senior events, added, \$2,000 for team roping, added, and \$200 for jr. events, added.

For more information, contact Bob Arrington at (918) 732-7652.

Pageantry

The coordinator for the Muscogee Nation Scholarship pageant is Virginia Thomas. Senior Misses and Little Miss Mvskoke pageant events will be held at 10 a.m., June 4 at Covelle Hall on the OSU-Okmulgee campus. Miss Mvskoke and junior miss Mvskoke pageant events will be held at 7 p.m., June 3 also at Covelle Hall.

The age groups for all categories are miss Mvskoke, ages 17 to 22 and must be a high school graduate; junior miss, ages 14 to 17; senior misses, ages 55 years and older, little miss division I, ages four to six; division II, ages seven to nine; division III, ages 10 to 13. Participants must be at least one-fourth Muscogee (Creek).

The deadline date for applications is May 6 by 5 p.m. For more information, contact Virginia Thomas at (918) 732-7839 or Jeri Brandon at (918) 732-7843 or 1-800-482-1979.

Festival Food and Arts and Crafts Vendors

Omniplex booth space rental fees for vendors are: one weekend, \$200 & both weekends, \$250 for food and arts and crafts are: for authentic, \$75 and non-authentic \$125, with or without electricity.

Space location is secured through payment of rental fees and will be granted on a first-come-first-serve basis. No personal checks accepted, no exceptions.

For information on food vendors, contact Melissa Ambler at (918) 732-7935. For information on arts & crafts contact, Melinda Taylor at (918) 732-7727.

Gospel singing

The Gospel singing will be held at the OSU Extension Building, on June 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Okmulgee County Fair Grounds.

Approximately 15 minutes, enough time for three songs, will be allotted to each group or soloist. Key board, cd/tape player, and drums will be provided. Five microphones will also be available. Please provide your own guitar.

Featured singers/groups include: Gospel Lights, Taylor Osborn, Joe Baker, Bart Kelly and Jenna Gouge.

For more information, contact Thompson Gouge at 732-7711.

Stomp Dance

The stompdance will be held June 16 at 7 p.m. in front of the stage area at the Omniplex.

Drawing for prizes will include: pendleton chairs, ballsticks and cans.

For more information, contact David Proctor at 756-8504.

3 on 3 Basketball

The 3 on 3 basketball tournament will begin on June 18. The entry fee will be \$60 per team.

Deadline for registration will be June 13 at noon. For more information, contact Micco Freeman at (918) 759-0605.

Volley Ball

The Volleyball Tournament is Saturday, June 18. Entry fee is \$65 with a eight person roster.

Prizes will be awarded for first through fourth place. Deadline for entries will be June 10.

For more information, contact Christine Denny at (918) 296-3331 or Randall Hicks at (918) 732-7964.

Men & Women's Fast Pitch

Men's and Women's fastpitch will begin on June 17. The non-refundable entry fee is \$175.00 and due by June 3.

For more information, contact Ruby Booker at 1-800-482-1979, ext. 7927.

Co-Ed Slow Pitch

Co-Ed slow pitch softball tournament will be starting June 17. The nonrefundable entry fee is \$165. Awards will be given to first through third in men & women's divisions and co-ed awards will be given to first through fourth place teams and individual. Homerun derby will be held also. Balls will be provided.

For more information, contact Victor Bear at (918) 261-2315.

Church Mushball Adult/Youth

A touch of Indian Falls Creek has made its way to this year's festival. The Mushball Tournament will start on June 18. The non-refundable entry fee is \$50 in cashiers check or money order payable to the Creek Nation Festival. Deadline is June 3.

For more information, contact Victor Bear at (918) 261-2315.

Golf Tournament

A Golf tournament will be held on June 17 through 19 at Fountainhead Golf Course in Eufaula.

A scramble will begin on June 17 with registration by eleven. Open to the public. Saturday players are responsible for scheduling tee times. Must be Native American to participate. On Sunday there will be a 8 a.m. shotgun start.

For more information or to register, contact Bret Hayes at (918) 681-0918 or Perry Anderson at (918) 732-7830 or Bert Robison at (918) 689-2547 or Fountainhead Golf Course at (918) 689-3209.

Concerts

The concert is scheduled to begin on Friday, June 17 at 6:00 with the following performers: Fiddlin' Buddy Streight, Roger Tillson band, Bad Water, Brandon Jenkins. The headliner will be Junior Brown.

Saturday's performers will be: Home Brewd, Cecil Gray & Red Dawn, Chebon Tiger, Chris Zalez, Jimmy "Junior" Markham, Wayne 'the train' Hancock. The headliner will be Leon Russell.

All concerts and times are subject to change. For more information, contact Barney Ingram at (918) 756-3571.

Horseshoe Tournament

A horseshoe tournament will be held on June 18 with registration beginning at 8 a.m.

For more information contact Larry Soweka at (918) 752-3262.

5K Run or Walk

The 5K run/walk will be on June 18 at the Muscogee Nation Tribal Complex. Entry fee through June 17 is \$15 or \$20 on race day (includes t-shirt) or \$10 without t-shirt.

Limited number of shirts available. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. and the race begins at 8:00 a.m. Water will be provided.

For more information, contact Lila Garrett at 732-7862.

Celebration of Traditional Mvskoke Arts

On June 18, adults can enjoy a juried traditional art competition, master artist show and sale and Dawes Commission Cards Symposium while children can be a rabbit or turtle in an interactive storytelling workshop, learn Pow Wow and Stomp dances, play a game of stickball, or make a clay pot, cane basket, or beaded bracelet to take home.

For further information, call the museum 756-2324.

Living Legends nominations

To nominate a "Living Legend" please pick up a form from the Principal Chief's office. The deadline to enter is May 20th.

For more information, call the Principal Chief's office at (918) 732-7605.

March District Court filings

Marriage License:

None

Protective Orders:

None

Criminal - Misdemeanor:

None

Criminal - Felonies:

- MCN v. Berryhill: Jim Thorpe
Ct. 1: Embezzlement, Theft & False Accounts
- MCN v. Cauthon: Kevin
Ct. 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
- MCN v. Johnston: Kim
Ct. 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drug w/intent to distribute
Ct. 2: Poss. Of Illegal Drug Paraphernalia
Ct. 3: Reckless Endangerment
- MCN v. Walton: Orvil
Ct. 1: Poss. Of Illegal Drugs

Traffic:

- Furr: Sagrean Nichole
Ct. 1: Driving w/o required registration
- Furr: Lester
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Brandon: Noconi Luke
Ct. 1: Failure to stop for stop sign
- Adamson: Roger Lee
Ct. 1: Driving w/o required registration
- Boyce: Russell Roger
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Sharp: Tracie
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Jones: Christopher
Ct. 1: Trespassing
- Bogle: Michael
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Strickland: Jason
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Poindexter: Ronald
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Burchett: Matthew
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Rhodes: Fred Andrew
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Palmer: Stephanie
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Shields: Joshua
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Shields: Joshua
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct
- Shields: Joshua
Ct. 1: Disorderly Conduct

Divorce:

None

Civil/Small Claims:

- Security Finance v. Francis: Hannah
Small Claims
- Lee: Alisha Marie v. Speir: Brandon
Petition for Child Custody
- Royal Finance v. Scott: Raymond
Small Claims
- Citizen’s Security Inc. v. Gibson: Kimberly
Foreign Judgment

Family Domestic:

- Tribal Child Support Enforcement, Ex. Rel. Jessica M. Trujillo v. Davy R. Hill, Fr.
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Anne M. Murphy v. Earl J. Poole, Jr.
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Miranda B. Bush v. Nelson S. Harjo, Jr.
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Alice L. Wilson v. Lonell E. Fultz
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Nicole Johnson v. LeRoy Tilley
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Lynda A. Perry v. Maurice Yahola
- TCSE, Ex. Rel. Nichole L. Zipfel v. Larry L. Bird

Moore

continued from page 3

During the Green Corn ceremonies all participants dressed in white, the Mekko adorned with a headdress made of duck skin surmounted with white feathers. The honored warriors faces and torsos were painted red.

The moccasins worn by both sexes were made of either deer or bison leather and ornamented to the satisfaction of the wearer. There was no prohibition from going barefoot at any time weather and terrain permitting. The hunter/warrior would often carry more than one pair of moccasins when on an expedition and would often stitch another layer of leather to the moccasin for a reinforced sole.

European contact radically changed clothing material available and greatly expanded styles used in the Muscogee Confederacy as both the men and women took advantage of these new clothing materials from Europe.

Health

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The camp committee would also like to acknowledge last year’s OSU Okmulgee Graphics Department student’s whose logo was chosen for Camp Cvfeknetv, Rick Hatheway and Paul Welch.

Family Diabetes Prevention Camp 2005

HENRYETTA — We are approaching the time for our family diabetes camp, scheduled May 23-26, at Rhema Ranch. The camp is located east of Henryetta, off Pierce Road exit on I-40.

We are inviting American Indians families who

have a history of diabetes and: receive their health care within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Health System or live within the Muscogee (Creek) Nation boundaries. Past participants are encouraged to submit applications, but due to limited space first preference will be given to first time applicants. Call 1-800-782-8291 ext 237 for registration information.

Weight loss program begins *by Natalie Seabolt, RD/LD*

SAPULPA — A group of Native American women are participating in the new weight loss program provided by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Clinics called “Healthy Directions”. “Healthy Directions” is a weight loss program that focuses on lifestyle changes and caring for the whole person, not just the extra weight.

Written by Mary Gilmore, a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator, the program was developed to help people lose weight through lifestyle adjustments and keep it off for life. Ms. Gilmore wanted to create a tool to help those whose extra weight has created additional health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and joint problems. She works at a hospital in Mississippi, one of the states with the highest rate of obesity. She only sells her program to registered and licensed dietitians because she believes that medical management is a crucial part to healthy weight loss. The program consists of support group meetings every 2-3 weeks. During meetings, the members are weighed, led through a lesson on various topics and awarded prizes based on weight loss or attendance drawings. The lessons cover topics such as exercise, good food choices, self-esteem and relationships. Most lessons are taught by the dietitian at that particular clinic, but some guest speakers are brought in to speak on their area of expertise.

Sapulpa Clinic has held meetings for almost three months and started a new class on April 14th. Eufaula, Okemah and Okmulgee clinics have also started their first group of participants. Most clinics are holding a noon time and an evening session so that all patients and staff may participate.

Participants must have an established chart at one of the MCN clinics or be an employee at the clinic, have seen a doctor in the last year and be ready to make changes to improve their health. Call the Diabetes department at your clinic for more information.

Blue Eagle Solutions

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****Featured in May 2004 issue of Muscogee Nation News****

STELLA WESLEY

FT. GIBSON — Funeral services for Stella Watson Wesley were held February 24 at Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Gene Harjo officiating.

She was born March 25, 1907 near Bryant to McDaniel Watson and Louise Byrd Watson.

She grew up in the Henryetta area, attended school at Dwight Mission Boarding School at Vian, Euchee Boarding School near Sapulpa for several years and later attended the Chilocco Indian Boarding School in Arkansas City, Kansas for three years before returning to the Henryetta area.

On September 2, 1927, she married Santa Wesley in Dustin. She became a homemaker and spent the majority of her life raising her family and helping her husband with farming duties. Stella moved to Ft. Gibson in 1980. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Sapulpa.

She was preceded in death by: her husband who died in 1972; an infant son and another son, Daniel Kenneth Wesley who died in 1954; 2 grandchildren, Lesse Marie Hogner and James Wesley Degan; 1 sister and 2 brothers.

Survivors include: her daughter, Virginia Eaves of Kansas City, Kansas; daughters, Atheline Farron of Portland, Oregon and Lydia Hogner of Ft. Gibson; grandchildren, Mona Ellis, Sandra Adair, David Hogner, Karen Farren Fisher, Max and Wesley Farron; 9 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great grandchildren; nephew, Rev. Watson of Dewar; niece, Juanita Field Dunson of Henryetta.

Pallbearers include: David and Aaron Hogner, Matthew and Daniel Ellis, Solomon Adair and Robert Meeks.

Honorary Pallbearers were: Pete Riley, Richard Hicks, David, Marty and Daryl Dunson.

Interment was at the Dustin Cemetery.

IDAMICCO

WELTY — Funeral services for Ida Micco were held February 26 at Grant Chapel United Methodist Church with Rev. Will Gordon officiating.

She was born on December 15, 1909 in Okfuskee County to Fagie Bluford and Susanna Conner.

Ida was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Goldie Micco, 6 brothers and one sister.

Survivors include: sister, Leah Billey of Paden, 3 nephews and 1 niece.

Interment was at the Grant Cemetery in Welty.

AMOS CHUPCO

SEMINOLE — Funeral services for Amos Thomas Chupco were held February 25 at the Hilltop Presbyterian Church with Elder Kelly Tiger and Jerry Baker officiating.

He was born March 10, 1924 to James and Bettie Thomas Chupco.

Amos married Lucille Tiger on Oct. 10, 1950 in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and lived his whole life in Seminole County, except for the time he served in the military.

He served in the U.S. Army and retired Sept. 1, 1965. He served for 20 years with the Airborne Division, including the 82nd Airborne, 101st Airborne, 187 Regimental Combat and 12 air assaults. Amos was also a master parachutist.

Following his retirement from General Motors as an

inspector in 1991, he then worked at the Seminole Wrangler plant in the maintenance department for four years.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; son, James Chupco Sr.; brother, James Chupco Jr.; and two sisters, Nancy Frank and Rachel Walker.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; daughter, Phyllis Platta of Mescalero, New Mexico; seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Pallbearers include: Roger and Ronnie Frank, Sandy Walker, Albert Platta Sr., Joel Luna Jr. and Michael Fish.

Honorary pallbearers include: Kenneth Taryole, Charles Chupco, Kenna Harjo and Steve Ruedy.

Interment was held at the Achena Cemetery.



Chupco

EMMAMARSHALL

BIXBY — Funeral services for Emma C. Marshall were held February 15 at the Leonard and Marker Funeral Home with Rev. John Fixico and Rev. Jimmy Alexander officiating.

Emma was born August 24, 1915 to Willie and Ella Brown Carr.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; husband, Jimmy J. Marshall; two sons, Jimmy and Jeffery Marshall; three sisters, Lena Tiger, Rachel Frank and Sara Watashe.

Survivors include: daughter, Joyce Ham; husband Don of Mounds; five grandchildren; several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren as well as numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Interment was at the Marshall Family Cemetery.

AMELIABROWN

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Amelia Brown were held March 22 at the Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church.

Amelia was born March 6, 1945 in rural Wetumka to Benjamin and Maggie (Beaver) Scott.

Amelia was primarily a homemaker after her retirement from Creek Nation where she had been employed as a Secretary in Social Services. She lived most of her life in Oklahoma except for a few years spent living in Southern California.

Survivors include: four children; Darryl Don Tiger; Jesse of Dover, Arkansas, Robert and Tracie Ann Brown, both of Bixby; three brothers, Marcie and James, both of Wetumka, and Ben Scott of Eufaula; two sisters, Anna E. Wind and Marilyn P. Seestebt, both of Henryetta; and four grandchildren.

Pallbearers include: Ronnie Whitetree, Leo Moppin, Cy Johnson, Jr., Osceola Powell, J. R. Fields, and Maxey Fish.

Honorary Pallbearers include: Phillip Mills, Jeremy Fish, Wilson Yardage, and Solomon Johnson.

Interment was held at the Scott Family Cemetery.

Gratitude

Words cannot express our appreciation for the visits, calls, prayers, food, flowers and words of comfort during the hospital stay and the funeral, for our loved one, Willard Yargee.

Thanks to the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church and members. Rev. Frank Moppin and Rev. Fred Lindsey also Williamson Funeral Home, Creek Nation Honor Guards, friends, neighbors, churches, co-workers, and organizations.

We will always remember in our hearts the love, kindness and concerns shown to us. May God continue to bless each of you.

Willard (Beepsy) Yargee family

On behalf of Irene Cleghorn's family, we would like to say "thank you" which is a small token for the support, prayers, flowers and monetary giving from the community, friends and relatives, also, the provision of food and service of the Many Springs Indian Church. We thank the ministers George Doyle and Jimmy Anderson, to S. Aid for her help in making the contacts for the funeral, and to the Creek Nation. We wish that we could personally thank each and everyone of you who came to say goodbye, we will miss Irene. Again, Mvto.

Irene Cleghorn family

Words cannot express the gratitude for all of the love, prayers, flowers, food, cards, visitations and phone calls during the loss of our beloved Kenneth Childers, Sr.

A special thank you to the First Baptist Church, Davis Chapel, Thomas Community Church, Broken Arrow Methodist Church, Haikey Chapel and the Church of God of Prophecy. To the Coweta PTA, Coweta Public Schools, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Lighthouse Police for all their assistance. The uplifting from Rev. Randy Wisdom, Rev. Bill Stone, Rev. Brad Drowning Bear, Rev. Donald and Charles McHenry and all the other ministers and speakers. Your deeds of kindness will remain in our hearts forever.

Kenneth Childers, Sr. family

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all those who showed their love and support to our family during this difficult time. We would especially like to thank the Second Chief Alfred Berryhill for conducting such a beautiful service and respecting the Family's wishes. Words cannot be enough to express our gratitude to him. We would like to thank all of Mom's beloved cousins who helped care for her with us all the way to her rest, Della, Liza, and Darrell Proctor. Thank you to Mom's beloved niece, Deanna Lasley who went out of her way to help with preparations, plus many of family and friends too numerous to count. Also we would like to thank all of the members of Weogufkee Church, to Pony Lasley and Geebon Gouge for their songs of love and comfort, and "Chebon" Wilbur Gouge for conducting the traditional speaking for Weogufkee Ceremonial Ground. Last, we would like to thank David Nichols, who as a Council member truly helped his friend and constituent with difficult times and helped to carry Mom to the end. Thank you!

Rose Kelly family

Shop talk with Gerald

Spring has definitely sprung folks and with it comes a new season of baseball.

Baseball, oh yes, the game of home runs, hot dogs, and anabolic steroids.

You know it is just a crying shame that the game that was once called 'America's past time' has been darkened by an illegal drug substance.

It is not an over statement to say that the game will never be looked at in the same manner again. And it is interesting to note that the era in which so many dirty acts have been discovered was at a time when the country really needed a positive pickup instead of a positive drug test. The country has been reeling from the effects of the war in Iraq, as well as the economy and now another disaster to a sport that we look forward to as an escape. Not to mention the sport specifically needed an image make-over. Considering that in only the last decade, major league baseball had undergone a player's strike and was really beginning to clean up the prima-donna image. This on top of the memorable 1998 race to eclipse Roger Maris's 61 home runs. The race between the names of Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa, and Barry Bonds. Names that have all been questioned, with Sosa and McGwire even appearing before a Senate Committee on their alleged use of steroids in March. What was especially sad was to watch Mark McGwire, the once thought of modern day poster boy of the game squirm and jiggle during his subpoenaed testimony before the committee.

"I'm not here to talk about the past," was McGwire's response to many of the questions asked of his questionable use with the drug known to make a good athlete a much better one. McGwire said he was instructed by his attorneys not to answer the questions and to plead the fifth. But if an athlete is not caught up with anything illegal, what does he have to hide?

Americans are a forgiving people and will give someone a second chance when forgiveness is asked. But when someone tries to hide, then the outcome usually is different. McGwire who, after the questioning, said he would do everything in his power to get the word out that "steroids are bad, don't do them."

Neutral people may look at the whole situation and say "what the big deal, its only a game?" But if that is the case, and the game doesn't really matter and is only to be seen lightly, then why do athletes look to every possible advantage to get ahead. Even if it means the risk of losing one's own life.

Given that, the '98 home run record season has certainly been tarnished, McGwire, Sosa, and any other baseball names should be taken out of the record books for that year.

In the end McGwire said he only wanted to talk about positive things. Then step back up to the plate Big Mack and tell us the whole truth.

Tilley boys make it happen for Wewoka

WEWOKA — On the web page of Wewoka High School's athletic page is the phrase 'Respect begins with Good Sportsmanship'. The Tilley boys, Mitchell and Virgil, of Wewoka High School have brought about a lot of respect, especially from opponents while showing good sportsmanship as well.

The Tilley's are Juniors, which means they will be back for another spectacular season for the Tigers.

The Tilley's, along with the likes of Seniors John Thomas, Johnny Patton, Marc Reir and B.J. Walls and a cast of others, helped the Tigers take off strong with a consecutive fourteen game winning streak and a number one ranking in Class 2A. The Tigers were defeating opponents by an average of 15 points. The season's success enabled Wewoka to win the district and regional championships. Which qualified the Tigers to the class 2A state Championship playoffs. From there, Wewoka took a ride through the statewide tournament and got to the championship game. Unfortunately, lady luck didn't shine on the Tigers that final night, as Pawnee defeated Wewoka by a score of 66 to 65.

But the unwanted ending to an awesome season did not diminish what the Tilley's were able to accomplish throughout the year. Earlier in the season, the Tigers went down to the Little Axe Tournament and grabbed first place.

Virgil and Mitchell's play was so dominant, the boys were selected as co-most valuable players of the tournament, which is truly quite a rarity.

Also during the year, the Tigers were invited to play in the prestigious Tournament of Champions at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa. An event

which only a select few have the opportunity to do.

"You have to see them to believe me when I say they are the greatest out there on the court!" Great-Aunt Alene Deere, brags when speaking about her nephews, Mitchell and Virgil. Deere's sentiments are the same as all those who live in the city limits of Wewoka and beyond.

So impressive was the contributions of the Tilley's that they led the team statistics in categories such as field goals, and point percentage. Mitchell had 550 points total for the Tigers, while Virgil had 481.



The 2004-05 Wewoka High School Boys Basketball team. Virgil, number 5 and Mitchell, number 30.

March Madness deemed a success

DEWAR — The tournament lights are turned off once again, but the Second Annual March Madness Basketball Tournament has been declared a royal success according to coordinator Lucas Taylor. Taylor, along with 'For love of the Game' members B.J. Waggoner, David Pascale and Victor Bear created the unique basketball tournament which showcases the best in Native American high school basketball.

Teams from the Alabama-Coushatta tribe in Texas and the Pima in Arizona also entered the tournament and saw Oklahoma basketball first hand.

"We were really impressed with the brand of basketball we seen here," admits San Carlos Head Coach Terry Antonio. "Some of the teams we played against were a little smaller than us and I think

they used their size to their advantage," said Antonio.

The Sooner Ladies coached by Lyle Deere defeated the John Crow Foundation to claim the Women's version of the crown.

Over on the men's side, the Native Hoops coached by Farron Culley of Okemah got the win over the Night Hawks to take home the coveted gold ball in the Championship game.

From both brackets, an all star team was created and will be representing Oklahoma in the 20th Annual Native American Youth Weekend April 13 through 16 in

Lake Wood, Colorado. 'For Love of the Game' Board members and Council Representatives will also be attending.

